

A Field Trial to Evaluate the Effects of Fore-stripping on Milk-Flow Rates

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Introduction

A field trial was conducted on a modern 1,000-cow dairy in northwest Wisconsin in January 2002 to evaluate the effect of fore-stripping in a milking prep routine on milk-flow rates.

Materials and Methods

Two complete milkings were monitored in a double-20 milking parlor equipped with daily milk meters. The farm's standard milking routine (which includes fore-stripping) was modified so that Side A of the parlor continued the farm's normal routine, while on Side B the

milkers did not fore-strip during the two monitored milkings. Milk weights were captured on 912 cows during Session 1 (Side A 447 cows; Side B 465 cows) and on 902 cows during Session 2 (Side A 444 cows; Side B 458 cows).

Results and Conclusions

Summary data combining both milking sessions showed similar milk yields with or without fore-stripping. However, fore-stripping decreased average unit on-time by 23 seconds, increased peak flow rate in the first 60-120 seconds by 0.9 lb (0.4 kg)/min; and increased the overall average flow-rate by 0.5 lb (0.2 kg)/min.