



Shepton Vets Top 10 Tips to Minimise Environmental Mastitis on Your Farm

1. Keep cows on clean, dry beds. If the cows look dirty, the beds are not clean enough.
2. Always use dry bedding, this absorbs maximum moisture and does not get mouldy or damp. Scrape passageways twice daily
3. Pay particular attention to the calving pens. These must be kept as clean as possible as freshly calved cows are most prone to toxic mastitis
4. Have a minimum of one cubicle per cow (ideally 5% more cubicles than cows). If on straw yards, allow at least 6.5 sq meters of lying space, bed up daily with clean dry straw and clean out every 2 weeks
5. Predip cows to disinfect teats prior to milking. Teats must be dried. You may decide only to predip the high yielder or problem group. If the milk sock is dirty after milking, teat preparation is not good enough
6. Make sure that cows remain standing for 30 minutes after every milking
7. Make sure that you have stable vacuum levels throughout milking, you should not have any liner slip and the regulator must always be leaking in air. Have the machine regularly serviced and have a dynamic machine test carried out every year.
8. Check teat end conditions. If the teats are damaged then there is an increased risk of mastitis as the teat end is the barrier which keeps bugs out of the udder.
9. Use Orbeseal with dry cow therapy ensuring excellent hygiene prior to infusion. Pinch the teat half way up and infuse the Orbeseal so it sits at the base of the teat
10. Monitor progress with your vets. Check on your mastitis incidence and timings of infection. Use bacteriology tests to identify the cause of clinical mastitis on your farm