



Dry Cow Therapy



Proper steps for dry cow treatment

1. If treatment occurs at a time other than milking, dip teats with pre-dip, wait 30 seconds, then dry with an individual towel.
2. Clean teat ends starting with those the furthest from you with a single use alcohol pad or alcohol-soaked cotton ball. Continue to clean each teat end until the new cotton ball remains white.
3. Make sure that the short tip of the antibiotic tube being inserted is kept clean and has not come in contact with anything, ensuring it is sterile and will not transfer bacteria into the mammary gland. Start with the teats closest to you and work toward those furthest away.
4. Massage each teat after antibiotic infusion so antibiotics enter the quarter.
5. Dip each teat with post-dip if a teat sealant is not used. If sealant is used, skip to step #2 in the "Proper steps for using a teat sealant" below.

Proper steps for using a teat sealant

1. If treatment occurs at a time other than milking, dip teats with pre-dip, wait 30 seconds, then dry with an individual towel.
2. Clean teat ends starting with those the furthest from you with a single use alcohol pad or alcohol-soaked cotton ball. Continue to clean each teat end until the new cotton ball remains white.
3. Insert syringe tip of the teat sealant into the teat end while pinching the top of the teat where it meets the udder. Make sure that the short tip of the antibiotic tube being inserted is kept clean and has not come in contact with anything, ensuring it is sterile and will not transfer bacteria into the mammary gland. Start with the teats closest to you and work toward those furthest away.
4. Slowly inject teat sealant. (Use one complete syringe per quarter.) Do **NOT** massage sealant into the quarter. Repeat on each quarter.
5. Post-dip each teat when done.

Proper steps for keeping your dry cows healthy throughout the dry period:

1. Immediately remove dry cows from the milking herd and identify them (i.e. leg band, paint stick) as a dry cow.
2. Provide shade to dry cows to prevent heat stress.
3. Monitor cows for signs of clinical mastitis especially two weeks after dry off and again two weeks prior to calving. This is when dry cows are most susceptible to mastitis.
4. If housed on pasture, consider rotating fields or areas within the field as needed to avoid creating muddy areas. Muddy areas make it hard to keep cows clean, while providing an area for environmental pathogens to populate and cause mastitis.
5. If housed in a barn, ensure that cows remain clean and dry by replacing bedding and cleaning barn as needed.

