



SCC DIAGNOSTICS TOOL BOX



F-MR-3: Hand Strip Yield Test

Reinemann et al., 2nd International Symposium on Mastitis and Milk Quality, p. 387

It is impossible to milk a cow absolutely dry. There will always be some milk in the udder even after what is considered complete milk out. It is suggested to leave a certain volume of milk in the udder at the end of milking. The strip yield test is a means of measuring the residual milk left behind after milking as an indicator of milking performance. It can be done by hand or with a milking machine, although the hand strip method is easier. Some milkers have a bad habit of routinely machine strip cows. Some may needlessly re-apply milkers that have automatically detached. Done routinely, this is a futile waste of time as well as a risky practice in which new infections may be created by the induced air slips frequently caused by machine stripping. The strip yield test can be used to demonstrate the “normal” amount of milk left in the udder and help motivate milkers to refrain from this bad habit.

To accomplish the test, immediately after milking, hand strip each quarter for a maximum of 15 seconds collecting the milk in a container.

IF STRIP YIELDS ARE 250 ML (0.5 LB) OR LESS, THE COW SHOULD BE CONSIDERED MILKED OUT.

IF STRIP YIELDS ARE GREATER THAN 500 ML (1 LB), IT SUGGESTS THAT A MILKOUT PROBLEM MAY EXIST.

CHECK

- Cluster design, machine maintenance, and function.
- If milk meters are being used, adjustment for timely removal of the milking machine can be critical to help reduce machine-on-time.
- If detachers are not being used, it is very important to manually remove the milking machine as soon as end-of-milking is reached for each animal.
- Milking machine alignment and timely adjustment.
- Adequateness of cow prep and pre-lag time.
- Cow handling.



40-100 ml/quarter expected yield in a milked out cow

Photo courtesy of Lennart Petersson, IBA, Millbury, MA (2011).

