

DR. MURRAY RUNSTEDLER DR. PAUL SOSTAR DR. ANDREW MACLEOD DR. KELLY HAELZLE DR. AMANDA TOPP DR. SHANNON WALSH Linwood Veterinary Services 3860 Manser Road, Linwood, ON NOB 2A0 (519) 698-2610 & Hwy 89 Veterinary Services, 7434 Hwy 89 Mount Forest, ON NOG 2L0

1-800-663-2941 Fax (519) 698-2081 linwoodvet@linwoodvet.ca

We will provide industry-leading, reliable, knowledgeable service, in a friendly, courteous and timely manner, to benefit our clients and the communities we serve.

Linwood Clinic Hours: Mon-Fri 7am – 5pm Sat 7am – <u>12pm</u> Hwy 89 Clinic: Mon-Sat 7am-<u>1 pm</u>

NOTE: BOTH CLINICS ARE CLOSED SUNDAY and NO DELIVERY SERVICE SATURDAYS AND HOLIDAYS

Orders for Delivery: Please, call BEFORE 9:30 am, for same day local delivery Monday to Friday

24 Hour Emergency Vet Service <u>call any clinic number</u> **1-800-663-2941 519-698-2610 519-323-9002**

FEBRUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

Monday February 19, Family Day, is a Statutory Holiday. **There will be no delivery service that day**. Clinics will be open only in the morning and vets will be available for emergencies. Please bring in any milk samples for residue testing, as early as possible, as some testing takes over three hours.

Composted Bedding Pack Workshops: Due to increasing interest in cow-comfort, the OMAFRA dairy team are presenting workshops on composted pack barns during February and March, 2018. To register and for more information call 1-877-424-1300 or go to <u>www.pdo-ontario.ca</u>

Alma (Wellington County) on Thursday, February 15, 2018, Alma Community Centre 51 Simpson St E, Alma, ON N0B 1A0

ProAction Corner – Are You Using the Right Teat Dip?

There are a multitude of teat dips options available in Canada, with 77 teat dips approved under the CQM program. With so many options, and a huge variation in price how do you pick a teat dip that is both economical for your dairy farm and will do a good job preventing mastitis?

In this article, we will look at the different components of a teat dip and how they impact both mastitis control and teat health. We will focus on the different germicidal options as well as a few teat dipping tips. With this information you can evaluate the teat dip(s) you are using and make sure they are suited to your farm, your cows and your SCC goals. Using a good post dip properly can reduce mastitis incidence up to 50%; making it worthwhile to do your research and ask questions.

All teat dips contain a germicidal agent, skin moisturizer, thickener, surfactant, and pH buffering agent. There can be other ingredients depending on the type of teat dip, purpose and manufacturer.

The most common germicidal agents used in teat dips fall into two broad categories based on their mode of action (how they kill bacteria). The two categories are oxidative germicides such as iodine, chlorine dioxide and hydrogen peroxide and the non-oxidative germicides such as chlorhexidine and organic acids. The most common germicidal agents are compared in the following chart.

Teat Dip	Advantages	Disadvantages
Iodine	- Ready to use	- Potential for iodine residue in milk
	- Broad spectrum kill	- Possibility of causing teat
	- Organic matter has minimal effect	chapping/cracking
	on killing ability	- Takes 30-45 seconds of contact
		time to kill microbes
Chlorine Dioxide	 Broad spectrum kill 	 Must be mixed before use
(teat dips that you mix and use	- Killing ability least affected by	- Not shelf stable once mixed (have
right away)	organic matter	to throw leftover dip out after
	- 15 seconds of contact time to kill	milking)
	microbes	
Hydrogen Peroxide	- Ready to use	- Killing ability significantly affected
	- Cheaper compared to other	by organic matter
	germicides	- Takes more than 45 seconds to kill
	- Great germicide on clean, hard	microbes
	surfaces	- Shelf life can be an issue
Chlorhexidine	- Ready to use	- Can be irritating to skin
	- Broad spectrum kill with some	- Requires long contact time to kill
	residual activity (makes a good post	microbes
	dip)	

Skin moisturizer or teat conditioner is an important component of teat dips, mainly found in post dips. A general rule of thumb is, the cheaper the teat dip, the less moisturizing ability it has as this is the most expensive component. The best way to tell if your post dip has enough conditioning ability is to examine the skin of your cow's teats. Ideally you want teats that are smooth, shiny and plump looking. If teats are rough, dull, scaly, or worse cracking and bleeding you need more skin moisturizer in your teat dip. When evaluating a teat dip, make sure it is made by a reputable manufacturer and is an approved teat dip for CQM.

A Few Things to Remember About Teat Dipping:

- The goal of a pre dip is to clean and sanitize the teats before milking by killing bacteria and loosening any organic matter on the teat. This can be best achieved by wiping excess manure or other organic matter off the teats before dipping, ensuring the entire teat is covered in teat dip and leaving the teat dip on to allow for adequate kill time.
- The goal of a post dip is to kill bacteria, condition the teat skin and help maintain teat end health. To get the most out of your post dip, ensure the entire teat is covered and you're using a post dip with sufficient teat conditioners.
- Covering the entire teat with teat dip is very important. Teat dip can't do its job if there is only a little bit on the bottom of the teat or we miss the teat entirely. It is worth the extra second it takes during milking.
- Contact time is important. Many teat dips need at least 30 seconds on the teat skin to kill microbes. Dipping a teat and then immediately forestripping removes much of the teat dip and decreases the efficacy of the teat dip. Wiping the teat dip off too quickly after application also decreases contact time, and subsequently the ability to kill microbes.
- Always make sure your teat dip cups are emptied and cleaned after each milking. If contaminated during milking, take the time to clean them. Dipping cows with contaminated teat dip could be worse than not teat dipping at all!

Choosing the right teat dip(s) for your operation and using them properly is just one piece of the mastitis and udder health puzzle. If you have questions about somatic cell, mastitis, overall udder health, milking procedures or any of the many other factors affecting the udder of your dairy cattle don't hesitate to contact your herd veterinarian. We will always take the time to answer your questions and help with problem solving.