

# TOP FARMERS KNOW-HOW PREVENT MASTITIS OVER CALVING



## TO PREVENT MASTITIS IN THE SPRINGERS AND COLOSTRUMS:

- Shift springers often to keep a clean break
- Don't graze springers on effluent paddocks
- Milk springers which are already leaking milk — mark these so you feed their calf colostrum from another cow
- Teat spray springers every time they come through the shed

## TO PREVENT MASTITIS IN THE MILKING MOB, AND ENSURE HIGH-QUALITY MILK FOR SUPPLY:

- Strip the colostrum cows at every milking and check for clots, flakes or watery milk
- Mark, Record, Separate, then Treat (MRS. T) any cows with clinical mastitis
- Keep cows with blood in their milk in the colostrum mob until it resolves
- Only draft RMT negative colostrums with normal looking milk into the milkers. If a cow has a positive RMT at her eighth milking in the colostrum mob, keep her in the colostrums and continue to check her at each milking. If she continues to test RMT positive for several milkings (especially in a single quarter) this is probably subclinical mastitis. Talk with your vet about what to do next.



## TO PREVENT MASTITIS IN ALL GROUPS OF COWS:

- Only cup-up clean, dry teats. Use a dry paper towel to wipe teats that are wet or dirty
- Teat spray all cows after every milking — this is the most important step you can take to prevent mastitis
- Give all cows immediate access to feed after milking so they stay standing while their teat ends close

Monitor your mastitis case records. If you have:

- >8 clinical cases / 100 mixed-age cows over calving or
- >16 clinical cases / 100 heifers over calving

**Seek help from your vet or milk quality consultant**

FOR MORE:

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Or find us on YouTube by searching: **TopFarmersNZ**

Or visit: **[msd-animal-health.co.nz](http://msd-animal-health.co.nz)**

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**REFERENCES:**

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MSD Animal Health  
 33 Whakatiki St, Upper Hutt, Wellington, New Zealand  
 Private Bag 908, Upper Hutt 5140

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 ACVM No A11329. Schering-Plough Animal Health Ltd. Phone: 0800 800 543.  
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