

TOP FARMERS KNOW-HOW

INSERT DRY COW THERAPY



STEPS ON DRY-OFF DAY

I. Milk cows to be dried off

- Strip all quarters: draft clinical cases
- Mark dry quarters

II. Send cows to paddock while you clean up

III. Gather Supplies

- Table / vet stand
- Gloves
- New teat wipes
- Aprons with pockets
- Product — not expired, + extra tubes*
- Rubbish bins
- Tail paint / recording devices
- Teat spray

* Make sure all tubes always stay clean & dry!

IV. Plan the day

- Antibiotic OR sealant only: 25 cows / person / hour
- Antibiotic & sealant: 15 cows / person / hour
- Manage cows in small groups
- Check product handling
- Simplify — one product or combination each session

V. Dry off cows following best practice protocol

1. Assess safety
2. Clean and dry gloves
3. Begin with front teats: **complete cleaning and insertion for one teat at a time**

4. Clean teat end thoroughly with unused alcohol teat wipe
5. Uncap and partially insert tube into teat end (< 3mm)
6. Dispense product**, discard tube.

** Refer to your product label to determine whether or not to massage the product up into the quarter. For Cepravin® Dry Cow: do not massage up.

7. If using an antibiotic and a sealant together, modify protocol (60% more time & labour):

- a. Strip antibiotic up into quarter
- b. Clean teat end again
- c. Uncap and partially insert (< 3mm) the sealant tube
- d. Hold off the top of the teat with your fingers while dispensing the sealant into the teat.
Do not massage the sealant up into the quarter.

8. Repeat steps 1-7 for all four teats †
9. Spray teats with teat spray
10. Mark the cow & record the treatment

† If anyone is getting fatigued or is having a hard time consistently doing this well, take a break, review the protocol, or get that person to switch jobs with someone pushing up cows or holding tails.

FOR MORE:

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

Or visit: [msd-animal-health.co.nz](https://www.msd-animal-health.co.nz)

REFERENCES:

1. DairyNZ SmartSAMM. (2020). Drying off TechNote 16. Dry off abruptly taking steps to reduce yield. www.dairynz.co.nz

