

**Seasonal Update:**

We've seen solid rains in the last few weeks throughout the dairy regions in the state, and for those around the Bunbury region, and likely others too, this has brought with it its own challenges with boggy paddocks and muddy lane ways. The current temperatures are good for growing grass and you should see your leaf emergency rates speeding up, as per the calculated days per leaf below.

Leaf Emergence Rates (LER) week 4 - July (Based on current max and min air temperatures)			
Serpentine	Bunbury	Margaret River	Albany
12.5	12	12.5	12.5

**Keeping the bugs at bay:**

The winter season often brings with it an increase in chances of mastitis for the girls. The paddocks are getting boggy in areas and laneways are getting muddy due to the rain. Good hygiene in the dairy and correct application of teat spray post milking become increasingly important to reduce the risk. Below are a few tips to follow:

- ✓ When cupping up in the dairy, cows with wet and dirty udders should be washed and dried before having cups applied. Drying after washing is essential to reduce risk of mastitis and maintain milk quality.
- ✓ Vacuum and pulsation are important to check regularly on cups. If incorrect it can result in damage to the teat ends, reducing the cows natural defence mechanism of the teat canal and increasing the risk of mastitis.
- ✓ Regularly check test ends for damage. Damaged teat ends are a high risk of mastitis.
- ✓ When mixing teat sprays, use very high quality water. A number of water quality issues can alter effectiveness of teat disinfectants. Organic matter particularly will inactivate disinfectants, and the presence of chlorine, iron, calcium or magnesium can all affect disinfectants.
- ✓ When adding an emollient, such as glycerine, to your teat spray for teat condition, try to avoid higher than 10% glycerine in the mix. Higher levels may interfere with the killing power of the disinfectant.
- ✓ Check the coverage on your teat spray guns regularly. One good way to do this is to spray the teat as you normally would, and then wrap a piece of paper towel around the barrel of the teat. Remove the paper towel carefully and examine the wet or stained areas, all of the teat barrel should be covered.
- ✓ When spraying aim for 20mL of teat spray/cow/milking, or 10mL/cow/milking if teat dipping. Work out how many cows are in the herd and calculate how much you should be using during milking, then check to confirm whether the herd is being under or over sprayed.
- ✓ Consider identifying high cell count cows and milking them last, preferably by running a separate herd.

Smooth teat	Smooth or slightly rough teat	Very rough teat end
<p><b>Lowest risk of mastitis</b> Clean, not many bacteria.</p>  <p>Smooth teat end, no ring.</p>	<p><b>Increased risk of mastitis</b> Lots of bacteria, overcome teat canal defences.</p>  <p>Smooth or slightly raised, roughened ring.</p>	<p><b>Highest risk of mastitis</b> Many places for bacteria to hide, easier for them to enter teat.</p>  <p>Raised rough ring with rough fronds or mounds of keratin 4mm long or more.</p>

**Upcoming Events**

WAFarmers Dairy Conference Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017, email [reception@wafarmers.org.au](mailto:reception@wafarmers.org.au) or call (08) 9486 2100 to register.



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