



IDF PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 25th April 2018

Innovative review of milking practices aims to enhance udder health and boost productivity

The global dairy sector's efforts to further develop animal health and welfare practices have today been given a boost by the publication of a scientific review which aims to help reduce the over-milking of cattle and small ruminants.

Over-milking occurs when the milking apparatus remains attached to the udder with little or no milk being removed, thereby subjecting the udder to tissue stress and resulting in poor milking efficiency.

To date no international organisation has undertaken the task of establishing universal guidelines for the optimal removal of milking apparatus. This has resulted in large differences in recommendations for removal methods for both cows and small ruminants in different countries.

To address these issues, combat over-milking and ensure maximum productive efficiency, the International Dairy Federation has published today, the Bulletin "Teat-cup and cluster removal strategies for cattle and small ruminants: review and recommendations".

This review provides best practice guidance to milking equipment suppliers, dairy farm advisers and operators who will benefit from expert advice on how to address their milking performance and milk quality concerns, particularly on the selection of optimal teat-cup and cluster removal settings.

Caroline Emond, Director General of the IDF said: "*As the body that represents the united voice of the global dairy sector, the IDF is uniquely positioned to offer guidance based on diligent research, a wealth of experience and unrivalled scientific expertise.*"

"The IDF is determined to work towards a world that can enjoy safe, nutritious and sustainable milk that is produced in an environmentally-friendly way by incorporating the highest standards in animal welfare."

"This review will assist in the delivery of a universal set of guidelines on optimal teat-cup and cluster removal strategies that will benefit the global dairy sector."

Ralph Ginsberg, leader of the IDF Action Team on Milking Equipment and Methods said:
“The use of automatic cluster removers has led to a significant reduction in over-milking, a reduction in machine on time and an improvement in udder health.”

“The aim of this publication is to provide guidelines for milking equipment suppliers, milking advisers and technicians from members of the IDF who are acknowledged as world leaders in milking technology.”



Bulletin of the IDF N°491/2018

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Notes to Editors

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International Dairy Federation

The International Dairy Federation (IDF) is the leading source of scientific and technical expertise for all stakeholders of the dairy chain. IDF engages all stakeholders in productive activities and research projects to further current knowledge and science on a wide range of issues.

Today, dairy is one of the most vibrant and strategic sectors, with a major impact on national economies, public health and the environment. Through its working bodies, events and work programme, IDF provides a common platform, systems and processes for the global dairy sector to come together to reach consensus. Given its consensus-building capacity, IDF represents the global voice of dairy towards stakeholders and intergovernmental organisations.

For more information, please visit www.fil-idf.org.

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