



STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

Milk Harvesting - Rotary

IMPORTANT NOTES

- DO NOT proceed in this operation unless appropriately instructed and permission has been given.
- Ensure personal protective equipment and clothing is available and worn. Use sunscreen.
- Ensure you have undergone thorough practical training and have been signed off as competent to carry out this task.

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**POTENTIAL HAZARDS AND INJURIES**

- Hot water burns
- Chemical burns
- Kicks
- Zoonoses Diseases
- Crushing
- Slips, Trips and Falls
- Dangerous gases given off from mixed chemicals

**PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) REQUIRED**

Protective Clothing



Safety Footwear



Gloves or Gauntlets



Earmuffs



Hardhat



Safety Glasses or Goggles



Full Face-shield



Dust mask



Apron

**PRE-START CHECK**

- If first milking into the Silo, ensure Silo and Plant are rinsed and Milk Silo is hooked up.
- Ensure Silo door seal is fitted correctly also door shut securely
- Ensure you are wearing the appropriate personnel protective equipment and clothing
- Check clean milk filter socks are fitted
- Check valves shut under milk filter socks
- Check teat sprayer full and ready to use and the milk cooler is turned on

**OPERATION**

**Ensure you abide by the Farm Policy – “Milking is an exercise in contentment”.**

Every milking will be calm with a consistent routine for people and the cows.

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**OPERATION**

1. **Gather cows for milking** – call cows “come on girls”
  - a. Allow cows to drift to the collecting yard ensuring cows heads are down while walking
  - b. Keep 5 metres behind the last cow, don't stand in the blind spot.
2. **Milking yard**  
 Ensure there is enough space for the size of the herd before closing the entry gate  
 1.3 sq. m /Jersey (400kg),  
 1.5 sq. m/Friesian (550kg)  
 1.8- 2 sq. m/Holstein Friesian (650 – 750kg)
3. **Start milking** as the first cows arrive if possible.
4. **Backing gate** –
  - a. Don't move the gate for at least 20 minutes or until at least three rotations have been milked to ensure enough space in the yard for the herd to rearrange into a milking order.
  - b. Move the gate little (maximum of one metre) and often to take up the space in the yard and to keep cows flowing into the bail entry area.
  - c. Backing gate must never be used to push cows.
  - d. Gate speed maximum of 12m/min in round yards, 6m/min in rectangular yards.
  - e. The ideal gate control is a button and a timer so that the gate moves forward a maximum of 1m per activation or ½ m in rectangular yards.
5. **Top gate** -
  - a. Same Top speed as for Backing Gate (4d above)
  - b. All staff must operate the gate with the same method because cows are animals of routine. One example is the “5-cupping method”, where five cows are cupped between each action of the gate (after lifting the gate, moving the gate back, dropping the gate, moving the gate forward).

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**OPERATION**

c. The top gate must never be used to push cows (even if not powered).

**6. Stay at cups-on –**

- a. Call the cows on to the platform using a gentle tone (eg. “Come on girls”).
- b. If a cow hesitates, step away further from bridge and call (come on girls) to cows in the yard.
- c. Don't stop the platform.
- d. Avoid eyeballing cows.
- e. Milkers should only enter the yard away from the entry bridge area and only when necessary (for example the last group of cows).
- f. Keep head away from rump rail to avoid crushing if cow suddenly moves backwards
- g. Avoid over stress of arms (OOS or RSI) by rotating staff duties.
- h. **Zoonoses Diseases** avoid contact with cow urine or faeces if this happens wash immediately flushing eyes if needed

**7. Udder preparation –**

If the cows' teats are:

- Clean and dry - go ahead and cup
- Dry but dirty - wipe first then cup
- Wet and dirty - wash and dry then cup

**8. The Platform**

- a. Set the platform speed to suit your cupping speed.
- b. Don't back the platform up for cows, keep the platform moving.
- c. Do stop the platform if there is a risk of a cow or human getting hurt or when training cows to exit the platform.
- d. Don't allow cows any 'free riding'. All cows should exit after the clusters are taken off.

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OPERATION
9. <b>In-bail feeders</b> – check that the feed is flowing correctly throughout milking.
10. <b>Milking behaviour</b> – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Keep milking calm and relaxed.</li> <li>b. No shouting, no loud whistling.</li> </ul>
11. <b>Hosing down during milking.</b> Keep the bridge and platform clean during milking.
12. <b>Teat Spraying</b> – cows teats are sprayed after every milking. Spray to cover all surfaces of all the teats.
13. <b>The milking plant</b> – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Listen and watch the plant throughout milking to make sure it is working properly.</li> <li>b. Where standing for cupping cows keep checking drain for milk in case milk starts leaking from Milk room or Silo pad.</li> </ul>

REFERENCES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.dairynz.co.nz/milking/">https://www.dairynz.co.nz/milking/</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://youtu.be/-1GOiLMleE">https://youtu.be/-1GOiLMleE</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://youtu.be/6qMUx_qlKts">https://youtu.be/6qMUx_qlKts</a></li> </ul>

*This SOP does not necessarily cover all possible hazards associated with the machine and should be used in conjunction with other references. It is designed to be used as an adjunct to teach Safety Procedures and to act as a reminder touses prior to machine use.*

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