

Post milking barrier spray dramatically reduces risks

Productivity has never been more important than now in Europe, considering the challenging market conditions being experienced by dairy farmers. Almost all European countries have witnessed a decrease in the number of cows, with Ireland and the Netherlands being the strong exceptions. What is also important to recognise is that while herds are consolidating, productivity is also increasing.

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With cutting costs an obvious response to a falling milk price, many farmers understand the importance of staying within their penalty bands. A rigorous milking routine is more important than ever before as challenges are still on the rise from environmental pathogens such as *S. uberis* and *E. coli*.

In this case, teat disinfectants able to build a shield on the teat protect against environmental pathogens between milking, and in particular in challenging housing conditions. Until recently, shield products were not available for automated spraying systems.

There is no better way to increase milk yield and reduce somatic cell counts than

Chris Wallis with his pedigree Holstein/Friesian herd.



Lolco Lolkema switched to IoShield Spray for his herd in the Netherlands.

by disinfecting and protecting the entire teat as part of a post-milking routine.

The benefit is a shield protection against challenging housing conditions, a lasting disinfection effect and improved teat condition. With this in mind, extensive research and trial work went into overcoming the challenges which have historically accompanied manufacturing a viscous product through a nozzle. The result was IoShield Spray, the first shield spray for teats.

The proof is in the pudding. Farmers from across Europe have seen that a better quality product ensures they will remain within the band and therefore lock in prices.

Testimonial 1 Devon, England

Lower Ash Farm in Devon, England, has been in the Wallis family for close to 200 years. Chris is the fourth generation Wallis to own the farm. He has run the farm since 1995 and, along with his wife Carmen and son Jimmy, milks up to 200 pedigree Holstein, twice a day in a 15 unit swing over herringbone parlour.

Last year they produced $>1 \times 10^6$ litres. Their cows go out to grass between April and September to October during the day. Chris

and Carmen started trialling IoShield Spray as a development product in June 2015 and took delivery of their first order in December 2015.

With an SCC routinely between 150 and 200, save for the odd blip, and a Bactoscan of ≤ 20 , Chris continues to order more stock as he sees no reason to change.

Chris stated that it does produce a visible shield and an occasionally a teat canal plug. This is evident when he wipes the teats, pre application of the clusters, as there is visible residue on the wipe.

Testimonial 2 Friesland, Netherlands

It was hot, humid and stuffy when Lolco Lolkema walked through his cowshed in the late summer of 2015. An increase in cell count worried him. As he looked through the milk yield lists there was more often than not a cow which did not go to the robot and gave no milk. Upon inspection of the cow he observed a flabby udder and watery milk.

If one had just recovered, he had yet another cow with the same symptoms, so he started searching for another udder hygiene product.

Then he heard about the IoShield Spray

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from Ecolab. He was very surprised that immediately after application of the spray the cell count decreased and less mastitis occurred.

Lolco had also switched from traditional milking to a robot. After that transition the SCC went up slightly, but that is a pretty common phenomenon when a dairy farmer switches to a robot.

The increase at the end of the summer was so extreme that there had to be more to it. Lolco took action immediately. It was late August, early September and the hot, humid weather caused one E. coli case after another.

He had tried everything and taken all possible measures, but nothing helped. The somatic cell count remained high and was at one time even at 260,000.

According to his veterinarian, many colleagues in the area had trouble with E. coli bacteria. Unfortunately it also turned out to be the case for them.

In the beginning he was sceptical about using the new spray and thought it was just a smooth sales pitch. But ultimately he decided to go for it.

Previously he treated the udders with a spray based on lactic acid. After purchasing the robot, this was not sufficient. So he was looking for an efficient product that worked on a robot, against environment-related bacteria.

Lolco added IoShield Spray and as soon as the first container was connected to the robot he saw a positive outcome.

The SCC dropped immediately and they have had no more new E. coli cases since then. Basically it formed a second skin around the teat, so the E. coli could not do any more harm.

One sick cow requires much more time than 20 healthy cows. Meanwhile, the farmer has the environmental related bacteria under control and his herd is very healthy.

The udder health is very nice and the teat condition is extremely good. The cell count is stable and much better than before. They have therefore had no other health problems with the herd.

Now, in April 2017, Lolco Lolkema is still using IoShield Spray and is very satisfied. The somatic cell count is good: 102,000 and the teat condition has improved even more.

The facts

- An ideal cell count is just about around 100,000. Such a value implies that the cows are healthy and within the coupling there will be little or no loss of production.
- On a cell count from 200,000 a farmer will have about 15% production loss and that increases as the SCC rises. ■



Carmen Wallis in Devon, England with one of her pedigree Holstein/Friesian cows.