



Automation Brings Consistency

Automation is making big inroads on the dairy farm today. Automatic feeding systems, robotic milkers, feed pushers, cow locators, manure scrapers, automated hoof baths and the list of new equipment goes on. These conveniences can make the life of the animal and the farm worker so much better. Consistent routine makes the cows more comfortable. And automating repetitive, messy and mundane tasks can greatly improve the quality and consistency of key tasks.

For example, it is well known that if a quality teat dip is consistently applied post milking, the rate of new intra-mammary infections will be decreased by over 50%.

But how does the dip magically get to the teat? If done manually, someone has to go to the animal with the dip cup in hand, try to locate the teats, make sure there is enough fresh uncontaminated dip available in the cup, possibly spilling it when the cow jumps and finally performing the appropriate motions and checking to make sure all teats are covered.

And pity the poor soul that is post dipping cows on the end of a commercial rotary platform traveling at 6 seconds per stall or less. It is no wonder that the quality of the manual task will start to suffer as one becomes tired, bored or distracted. But lost focus on dipping has a penalty of more cows winding up in the hospital pen.

Fortunately, this is one of the easiest tasks to automate. A system like the GEA Apollo dipping and backflushing system will consistently apply just the right amount of teat dip through the teat cup at the end of the milking cycle before the cluster is detached.

Unlike a dip cup, the dip applied is always fresh and uncontaminated. The entire cluster is then flushed and sanitized before it is put on the next cow.

With GEA's Apollo dipping and backflushing system on the job the farmer can use the time to focus on more important tasks, like proper teat prep, unit attachment and alignment. Actions that pay off with better milk out and healthier cows.

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Automated milking for large-scale dairy farms

Automation can decrease the chance for human error, reduce labour and inefficiencies, and provide more consistent milking procedures and therefore higher milk quality. When it comes to large-scale dairy operations, the requirements get more complex and the need to optimise workflows of dairy production is even larger. DairyProQ, the automated rotary milking solution for large-scale dairy farms by GEA, has been developed with a special focus on the key challenges in commercial milking: Superior milk quality through preventive animal health management and excellent hygiene, ideal work environment to increase working efficiency, a highly reliable, consistent system performance and functionality and professional service through a wide GEA dealer network. The global roll-out of DairyProQ is continuously progressing with exciting feedback:

Since installing DairyProQ, the fully-automated rotary by GEA, we have seen much more efficiency from our parlour because of the increased speed of milking and decreased labour. We milk three times a day in a 60-stall rotary DairyProQ parlor with an average milking time of five minutes per cow. Our milking time used to be five to six hours. With DairyProQ, we have cut that time in half. Now we can milk about 300 cows an hour, which is very exciting for us. The speed of attachment on the DairyProQ also impressed me right away.

It's faster than most robots, and the in-liner technology is a great feature that really does all of the work to get the cow milking. With the automatic post-dipping, we can remove one employee from the parlour.

Our milk quality has also improved, and we have reduced the instances of mastitis since switching to DairyProQ. The sensors in the milking unit check the milk for colour and conductivity, so the milk we are putting in the tank is high-quality. With the consistency of the robots and the speed of milking and getting cows in and out of the parlour, DairyProQ will help us remain profitable.

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