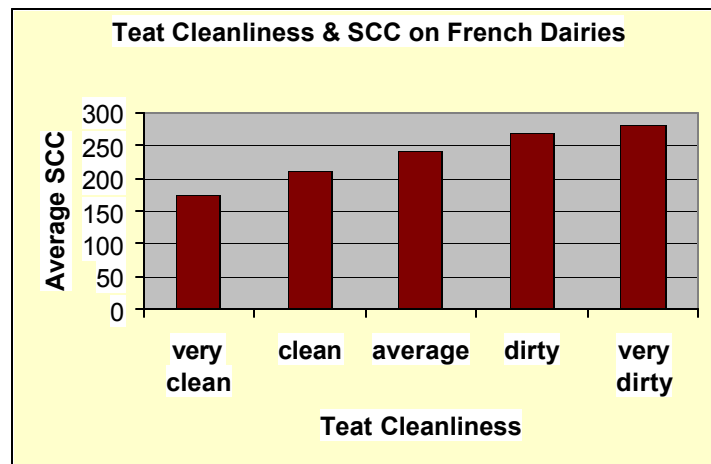




SCC DIAGNOSTICS TOOL BOX

QCF-2: Teat End Swab Test

Teat end cleanliness is a good indicator of the effectiveness of pre-milking cow prep. The importance of removing dirt and manure from the teat ends is important for consistent production of high quality low SCC milk. The bar graph at right, from a large French study that correlated teat end cleanliness and SCC, effectively demonstrates this point.



The teat end swab test is very effective for providing immediate feedback to milkers about the effectiveness their cow prep. It takes a conscious effort to include the teat end as part of the cow prep cleaning procedure. Therefore, it is helpful to have a monitoring method that will effectively show teat end cleaning effectiveness and help to motivate better compliance. The test is easily completed using the following steps:

1. As soon as the milker has completed pre-milking cow prep, swab all four teat ends with an alcohol swab.
2. Complete this test on several cows to get an assessment of teat end cleanliness.
3. Display the results for the milker to see. You may also record the results with a digital camera to include in your report to the farm.

The photograph below shows an example of a herd with **very clean teat end swabs** indicating **adequate pre-milking cow prep**.



An example of a herd with **very dirty teat end swabs** indicating **inadequate pre-milking cow prep** is shown at right.

