



## SCC DIAGNOSTICS TOOL BOX

### QCF-6: Hand Strip Yield Test

(Reinemann et al., 2<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on Mastitis and Milk Quality, p. 387)

It is impossible to milk a cow absolutely dry. There will always be some milk in the udder even after what is considered complete milk out. The strip yield test is a means of measuring the residual milk left behind after milking as an indicator of milking performance. It can be done by hand or with a milking machine, although the hand strip method is easier. Some milkers have a bad habit of routinely machine stripping cows. Some may needlessly re-apply milkers that have automatically detached. Done routinely, this is a futile waste of time as well as a risky practice in which new infections may be created by the induced air slips frequently caused by machine stripping. The strip yield test can be used to demonstrate the “normal” amount of milk left in the udder and help motivate milkers to refrain from this bad habit.

To accomplish the test, immediately after milking hand strip each quarter for a maximum of 15 seconds collecting the milk in a container.

**IF STRIP YIELDS ARE 250 ML (0.5 LB) OR LESS, THE COW SHOULD BE CONSIDERED MILKED OUT.**

**IF STRIP YIELDS ARE GREATER THAN 500 ML (1 LB), IT SUGGESTS THAT A MILKOUT PROBLEM MAY EXIST.**

#### CHECK

- Cluster design, machine maintenance and function.
- Milking machine alignment and timely adjustment.
- Adequateness of cow prep and pre-lag time.
- Cow handling.



40-100 ml/quarter expected yield  
in a milked out cow

