

Mastitis Problem?

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tem, maybe the vacuum pump is too small which can lead to fluctuations and injury to the teat."

The improper installation of a vacuum pump and the vacuum control is a common problem Stoltzfus encounters.

"It is always the first thing I check. If the original installer did not put the sensor in the right place there will be problems with the vacuum level. The sensor tells the regulator how much air to allow in the line," says Stoltzfus.

"I had a farmer who always received his bonus for a low SCC, but all of a sudden his SCC shot up. He had a bucket line and the sensor had been put on an elbow from the mainline and it was sensing and mixing at the same place and it should have been installed on the

mainline at the receiver," says Stoltzfus.

Check For Leaks

If the vacuum pump is too small another pump can be added to the system or a larger pump can replace the small pump. But if the system is losing vacuum it could be the result of leaks in the system. Leaks come from natural wear and occur at pulsator line drains where dirt collects, around gaskets, milk inlets, and at stall cocks. Although servicemen use a stethoscope to check for leaks the farmer can do the same thing by using a hose to detect the "hissing" of vacuum leaks.

Pulsators

There are few pneumatic pulsators in use on today's dairy farms, but there are some and they have more moving parts than the modern electronically controlled pulsa-

tors and therefore demand more maintenance. The pneumatic pulsator should be checked every six

"If you wait until you have a problem, then you have waited too long. Many of our farmers have us in regularly and of course we don't sell as many major repairs that way." — Jim Lefever of Jim's Surge

months. The farmer can prevent damage and malfunction by cleaning the dust and dirt from the pneumatic pulsator at least once a month. This will increase the life of the pulsator, also.

The electronically controlled pulsator has a more steady, con-

stant pulsation while the pneumatic pulsator creates a pulsation which can be too slow or too fast causing the injury to the teat by an inadequate rest phase.

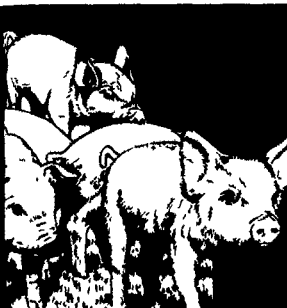
Depending upon the type of system in use the control box can adjust the open/close phase for the front teats at 50/50 and set the back teats at 60/40 because there is usually more milk in the rear udder. Make sure the milk/rest phase is appropriately set.

An improper setting can damage the teats by not allowing enough time for either function. Insuffi-

cient time in the rest period will damage teats by prohibiting blood flow in the teat. "If you don't have and injured teat, considering other sanitary practices are in line, the incidence of mastitis will be extremely low in the herd," says Gingrich.

Proper use of equipment is as essential to mastitis control as pre-milking preparations and post milking teat dipping. As usual on the farm, no one practice is the cure to all problems. It is the sum of many which leads to success.

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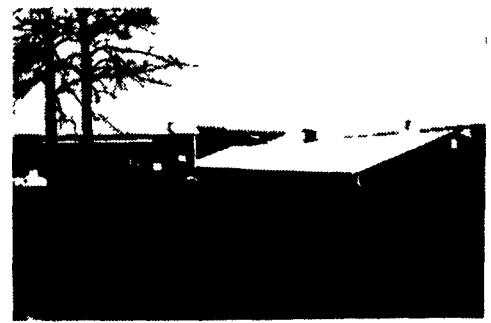
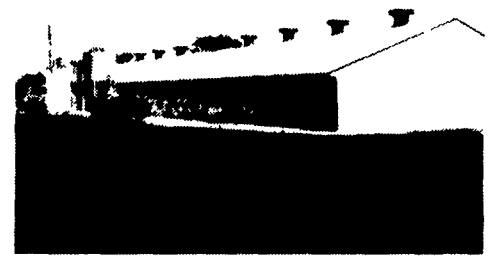


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