While wearing gloves, the evaluator gently grasps the teat above the teat end, feels to evaluate the teat skin and visually assigns scores for teat end and teat skin. An example of the numerical scoring systems is shown on the reverse side of this page.

This system identifies cows as normal if the teat end or teat skin score is scored a 1 or 2. Abnormal teat condition scores would be 3 or greater.

Generally 20% of the herd or 80 cows (whichever is larger) is indicative of the entire herd. The end goal is to achieve 80% of the herd or greater scoring 1 or 2, (normal scores), for teat skin and teat end condition.

Teat end condition can be improved through proper milking procedures and machine maintenance. Healing poor teat condition can be aided by the use of teat conditioning products. Lactic acid, the activator in all ABS udder care products, is an alpha-hydroxy fatty acid, which works to soften skin and exfoliate. This softens the hyperkeratotic tissue for easier removal, revealing healthier teat skin and teat ends. Healthy, normal teat ends will result in fewer cases of clinical mastitis and lower somatic cell counts. Teat ends in good condition, proper milking procedures, and quality teat dip are the first line of defense against mastitis and prevent mastitis-causing pathogens from entering the udder.

References:


Normal teat ends with a slight amount of callosity do not appear to increase the risk of mastitis and may be a beneficial response of the teat during machine milking. However, abnormal teat ends that are extremely rough and show evidence of hyperkeratosis (see photo) are associated with an increase of new mastitis infections.

Evaluation of teat-end callosity in commercial herds may help identify or resolve problems related to milking management, environment or the milking machine function. Teat ends are classified as normal if teat ends are smooth, soft and the skin is healthy. Teats are considered abnormal when teats are chapped, cracked, red, or have open lesions. Teat evaluation should be done prior to milking.

While wearing gloves, the evaluator gently grasps the teat above the teat end, feels to evaluate the teat skin and visually assigns scores for teat end and teat skin.

An example of the numerical scoring systems is shown on the reverse side of this page. (1)

This system identifies cows as normal if the teat end or teat skin score is scored a 1 or 2. Abnormal teat condition scores would be 3 or greater.

Generally 20% of the herd or 80 cows (whichever is larger) is indicative of the entire herd. The end goal is to achieve 80% of the herd or greater scoring 1 or 2, (normal scores), for teat skin and teat end condition. (3)

Teat end condition can be improved through proper milking procedures and machine maintenance. Healing poor teat condition can be aided by the use of teat conditioning products. Lactic acid, the activator in all ABS udder care products, is an alpha-hydroxy fatty acid, which works to soften skin and exfoliate. This softens the hyperkeratotic tissue for easier removal, revealing healthier teat skin and teat ends. Healthy, normal teat ends will result in fewer cases of clinical mastitis and lower somatic cell counts. Teat ends in good condition, proper milking procedures, and quality teat dip are the first line of defense against mastitis and prevent mastitis-causing pathogens from entering the udder.

References:


**Teat skin condition scoring:**

1 = Teat skin is smooth, free from scales, no chapping.
2 = Teat skin shows some evidence of scaling.
3 = Teat skin is chapped.
4 = Teat skin is chapped and cracked.
   Redness indicating inflammation.
5 = Teat skin is severely damaged and ulcerative with scabs or open lesions

**Teat end condition scoring:**

1 = Teat end sphincter is smooth.
2 = Teat end sphincter has a raised smooth ring. No cracks.
3 = Teat end sphincter is roughened. Slight cracks, no redness.
4 = Teat end sphincter is inverted, many cracks. Flowered appearance.
5 = Teat end is severely damaged and ulcerative with scabs or open lesions.

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### Teat End Condition Scorecard

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Illustration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>No Ring</strong>&lt;br&gt;The teat-end is smooth with a small, even orifice. This is a typical status for many teats soon after the start of lactation.</td>
<td><img src="image1" alt="No Ring" /> <img src="image2" alt="No Ring" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td><strong>Smooth or Slightly Rough Ring</strong>&lt;br&gt;A raised ring encircles the orifice. The surface of the ring is smooth or it may feel slightly rough but no fronds of old keratin are evident.</td>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Smooth or Slightly Rough Ring" /> <img src="image4" alt="Smooth or Slightly Rough Ring" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>Rough Ring</strong>&lt;br&gt;A raised, roughened ring with isolated fronds or mounds of old keratin extending 1 to 3 mm from the orifice.</td>
<td><img src="image5" alt="Rough Ring" /> <img src="image6" alt="Rough Ring" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td><strong>Very Rough Ring</strong>&lt;br&gt;A raised ring with rough fronds or mounds of old keratin extending 4 mm or more from the orifice. The rim of the ring is rough and cracked, often giving the teat-end a &quot;flowered&quot; appearance.</td>
<td><img src="image7" alt="Very Rough Ring" /> <img src="image8" alt="Very Rough Ring" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td><strong>Open Lesions or Scabs.</strong>&lt;br&gt;Teat end is severely damaged and ulcerative with scabs or open lesions.</td>
<td><img src="image9" alt="Open Lesions or Scabs" /> <img src="image10" alt="Open Lesions or Scabs" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Adapted from Mein, et. al., 2001, A Scoring System for Teat-End Condition)