

Ask the Expert

Q: We haven't emphasized fore-stripping in our milking routine and are afraid of slowing down the parlor if implemented. What reason is there to coach our milkers to fore-strip?

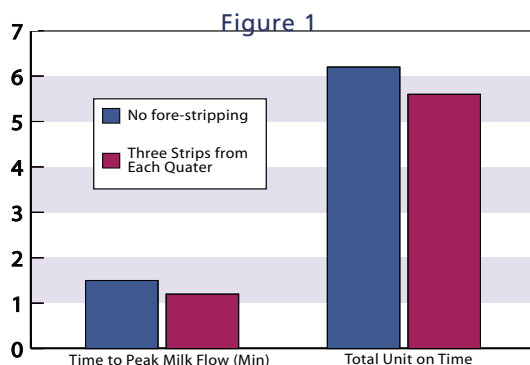


By: Kylene Anderson, Technical Service Specialist

The decision to fore-strip or not fore-strip cows is a subject that presents much debate in parlor management. At the recent 2005 NMC Annual Meeting, this topic was covered by several industry experts.

In a presentation by Ynte Schukken of Cornell University, milk flow characteristics were evaluated comparing minimal udder preparation to three strips taken from each quarter (Figure 1). In the study, while prepping the udder, all cows teats were disinfected, and the time from disinfection to unit attachment was 90 seconds.

The key difference in the preparation was the use of fore-stripping. The advantage in fore-stripping can be seen by the significant reduction in time to peak milk flow and total unit on time.



Q: Currently our dairy incorporates synchronization into our repro program. We want to check to see if animals are getting their shots at the correct time and if they are even cycling and can respond - is this possible?



By: Hernando Lopez, PhD, Technical Service Consultant

Monitoring synchronization protocol efficiency can be challenging. To obtain good compliance requires all protocol injections to be administered correctly and given at the appropriate times. In practice, it can be difficult to track compliance on injections. However, according to university research, when the protocol is correctly applied, a synchronization rate ranging from 80 to 90% can be obtained for Ovsynch and Presynch-Ovsynch protocols. This number can be used as a reasonable goal to evaluate compliance with the protocol in your herd.

ABS Global Technical Services offers blood progesterone testing for use in reproductive management and monitoring



In a separate presentation by Dr. David Reid and Terry Battcher of Bou-Matic, the impact of fore-stripping was evaluated in comparison to cows that had not been previously fore-stripped in the milking preparation.

The results from this study can be seen in Table #1.

Table 1

	Average Lbs./Minute	Peak Flow Lbs./Minute	Seconds Low Flow
No Fore Stripping	6.45	7.07	62
Fore Stripping	6.92	9.02	44

As presented, if this herd is using adequate pre-milking preparation, the automatic take off settings could be adjusted to improve the milkability of the herd by reducing the total milking time. This will result in healthier teat ends and improve overall udder health.

In addition to the benefits of fore-stripping as presented at NMC, it is also commonly supported that fore-stripping will aid in:

- **Early mastitis detection**
- **Loosening of organic matter on teats**
- **Increase teat contact time for more oxytocin letdown**

Each dairy management team, depending on parlor size, herd size, parlor design and willingness to train milkers, needs to make appropriate management decisions on how to implement fore-stripping into the milking routine. For more information in the steps of good milking preparation, please refer to the "Milk 'Em for All Their Worth" video on CD available through ABS customer service.

References Reid, D.A., and Battcher, T. On-Farm Evidence of the Role of Fore-Stripping in Pre-Milking Hygiene Routines. NMC Annual Meeting Proceedings (2005)

Schukken, Y. H., Petersson, L.G., Nydam, D., Baker, D.E., and the FAME team. Using Milk Flow Curves to Evaluate Milking Procedures and Milk Equipment. NMC Annual Meeting Proceedings (2005).

of heat detection accuracy, synchronization efficiency, and animal cyclicity. The figure below highlights when blood samples should be pulled in relation to the monitoring objective and progesterone level during the cow's cycle.

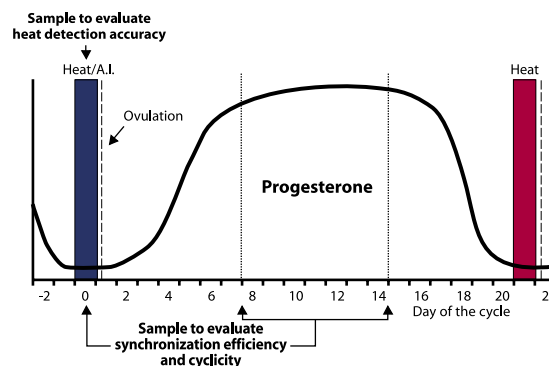


Figure 2: Expected progesterone levels during the estrous cycle and sampling times to evaluate heat detection accuracy, synchronization efficiency and cyclicity

For more information regarding sample collection, submission and charges, contact ABS Technical Services at absconsulting@absglobal.com or 1-800-356-5331 ext. 1427 or 1426.