

# CELLCHECK TIP OF THE MONTH

## Good housing means happy, healthy cows

**MASTITIS** occurs because bacteria get into the udder through the teat end. These bacteria can come from other cows (via milk), or from the environment. When cows are housed, their exposure to mastitis –causing bacteria in the environment will be higher. Bacteria, such as *E. coli* and *Strep. uberis*, which survive in the cow's environment, can cause severe cases of mastitis. Plan ahead, and reduce the risk of mastitis problems this winter.



**Reduce the risk of mastitis by making sure housing is CLEAN, DRY and COMFORTABLE**

**1**

### **CLEANER HOUSES = cleaner udders = less bacteria at the teat ends**

- Scrape passageways, cubicles and yards at least twice a day, or run automatic scrapers at least 6 – 8 times daily
- Don't forget, cubicle mats and bedding should be clean!
- In straw-bedded houses, bedding should be refreshed daily



2

**DRY HOUSING makes it harder for bacteria to grow**

- Good ventilation is essential
- Liming of cubicles (twice daily) will help keep them dry
- Make sure straw bedding isn't damp. Wet knees after kneeling on it means it's damp!



3

**COMFORTABLE cubicles=cows will use them more=cleaner udders and teats**

- Don't overstock cubicle housing this winter-aim to have 10% more cubicles than cows.



For more information, see *CellCheck Farm Guidelines* 1 & 16, and Management Note L