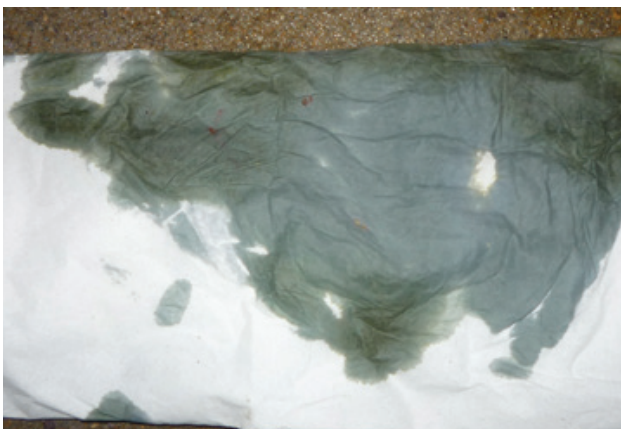


# CELLCHECK TIP OF THE MONTH

## Teat Disinfection-not just a winter sport!

**AFTER A BUSY** spring and mating season, you may be tempted to skip some of the 'routine' jobs that take a bit of time. If you are considering stopping post-milking teat disinfection because the cows are out grazing now.....DON'T!! While this might save you an extra few minutes at each milking, it could be one of the most costly decisions you will make. Mastitis happens when bacteria get into the quarter through an open teat end. These bacteria are everywhere in the cow's environment, both indoors and at grass. Cows with chronically infected quarters can also spread mastitis bacteria to other cows. So even though cows are outside, they're still being exposed to bacteria that could cause mastitis.

Good teat disinfection after milking reduces new mastitis infections by 50%. It does this by killing the bacteria that are left behind after milking, and by maintaining the teat skin in good condition. The only part of the milking machine that comes in contact with the cow is the liner, and it happens every time the cow is milked. So even in summer you need to make sure that the whole teat surface touched by the cluster liner has been disinfected-a drop of teat disinfectant at the end of the teat is not enough!







A solid pattern means teats have been well covered



A patchy picture indicates poor coverage of the teat

Remember:

-  If using a concentrate teat disinfectant, mix according to label directions. Use water of very high quality.
-  Use at least 15 ml/cow/milking to get good coverage when spraying (or 10 ml/cow/milking if using a dip cup).
-  Check the spray pattern regularly, and change or service the nozzles if necessary.
-  If dipping, rinse out the dip cup when the teat dip gets low-don't just top it up. This reduces the risk of milk or other organic material accumulating in the dip cup. Clean it out immediately if dirt/manure drops into the cup.

For good mastitis control, the goal is to cover all the skin, on all of the teats, of all of the cows, all of the time!

For more information, see *CellCheck Farm Guidelines for Mastitis Control - Guideline 7, 26 & Management Note I*