



## CELLCHECK TIP OF THE MONTH

# Get your milking machine ready for next spring!

**MILKING MACHINES** spend many hours connected to the most valuable part of your farm – your cows. So making sure they are serviced regularly is essential to ensure that they don't contribute to mastitis in your herd.

### At this time of year:

- Book in your service before spring time with a registered IMQCS technician. A list of these in your local area is available on <http://www.milkquality.ie/TechnicianRegister.html>.
- Get the service technician to go through the report fully with you – it is important to have an understanding of how the machine is functioning, and why certain recommendations may have been made.
- Carry out any repairs needed immediately.
- Start next season with a new set of liners, and change them after 2000 milkings or 6 months, whichever comes first.
- To keep machines in top condition test and service every six months.

Don't forget about the teat sprayers! Check that these are working fully and replace any nozzles that are blocked or faulty.

**Remember!**

All cows need a dry period to prepare for the next lactation-the udder tissue gets a chance to regenerate and prepare to produce milk again, and the cows have a chance to reach the optimal body condition. The dry period is also an ideal time to deal with those high SCC cows, or chronic cases of mastitis, as generally dry cow therapy delivers a better cure rate than treatment during lactation. CellCheck recommends a dry period of at least 6 weeks, and preferably 8 weeks. To ignore, or significantly shorten the dry period, could have a detrimental effect on the productivity of the herd in 2016. Shorter than usual dry periods can also increase the risk of antibiotic residues in milk after calving, if sufficient attention is not given to the minimum dry period duration for the product. And don't forget, milkers will benefit from a dry period too!

More information is available online [[www.cellcheck.ie](http://www.cellcheck.ie)] and in the *CellCheck Farm Guidelines for Mastitis Control*

