



Is Your Milking Machine Ready To Go?

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A new year, a new lactation.....is your milking machine ready to go? Did you have it serviced during the dry period? If not, how can you be sure that you are heading into a new season with a perfectly functioning milking machine? To ensure it runs smoothly, most people will service their tractors after 500 hours of work, or their cars after about 250 hours of driving.....so why should your milking machine be any different? In fact, the milking machine earns you your money, by safely and efficiently harvesting the milk from your most important asset, your cows; shouldn't you make sure that it's running smoothly too and not contributing to a mastitis problem in your herd?

REMEMBER!

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1. CellCheck recommends that all milking machines are serviced twice a year by a IMQCS-registered technician. This equates to about 550 hours of work between services. If you haven't done this yet, get it done now before spring calving and milking start again. A list of registered technicians in your local area is available online [click here](#).
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2. 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.
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3. Carry out any repairs needed immediately.
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4. Start the season with a new set of liners, and change them after 2,000 milkings or 6 months, whichever comes first. Remember that your cows' teats will spend an average of 60-80 hours every lactation in contact with the liners - making sure that the liners are in top condition will maximise productivity, and reduce the risk of spreading bacteria and damaging teats.

Don't forget about the teat sprayers! Make sure these are serviced too and replace any nozzles that are blocked or faulty.

For more information see the *CellCheck Farm Guidelines for Mastitis Control*