

- Calving environment
- Clinical cases
- Pre-milking preparation

Contagious and environmental mastitis

Mastitis is divided into two types; contagious and environmental. The bacteria causing contagious mastitis (e.g. *Staph. aureus*) usually reside in udder tissue and on teat skin and are most commonly spread at milking. The bacteria causing environmental mastitis survive in the cow's environment and, although milking may facilitate their entry through the teat canal, the environment is the primary source of infection. These bacteria include *Strep. uberis* and *E. coli*.

1.1 Calve in a clean environment

INDOOR

Calving boxes, whether single or multiple, should be kept clean, with fresh, dry bedding. If your knees are wet after kneeling, it is not dry enough for calving cows.

There should be adequate space in the boxes. Calving on slats/in cubicles must be avoided.

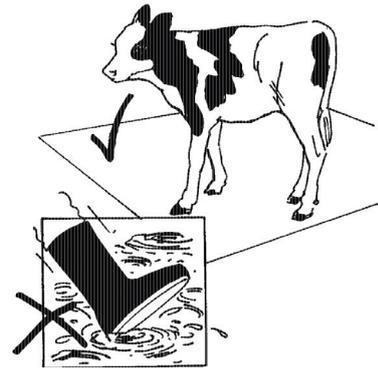
OUTDOOR

Pasture or pads for calving must have minimal manure contamination.

The calving area should be sheltered and well drained. Avoid poaching and mud. If water is visible on the ground surface or in your wellington boot print, it is not dry enough for calving cows.

Refer to Management Note L

The impact of housing on mastitis and SCC.



1.2 Be alert to the number of cases of mastitis occurring, especially in freshly calved heifers

This is an indicator of the state of the calving and housing environment.

If > 5% of your cows have had mastitis in the first month of calving you should investigate and correct any problems.

1.3 Take care with pre-milking preparation of udders

When freshly calved cows come into the parlour, their teats are tight and tender. Teat skin is often dry (the last teat spray emollient was usually weeks ago) with extra dirt and manure. For the first milkings, when the risk of new infection is highest, it is really worth an extra investment in teat preparation.

Refer to Guideline 5

Use good milking technique and a consistent routine.