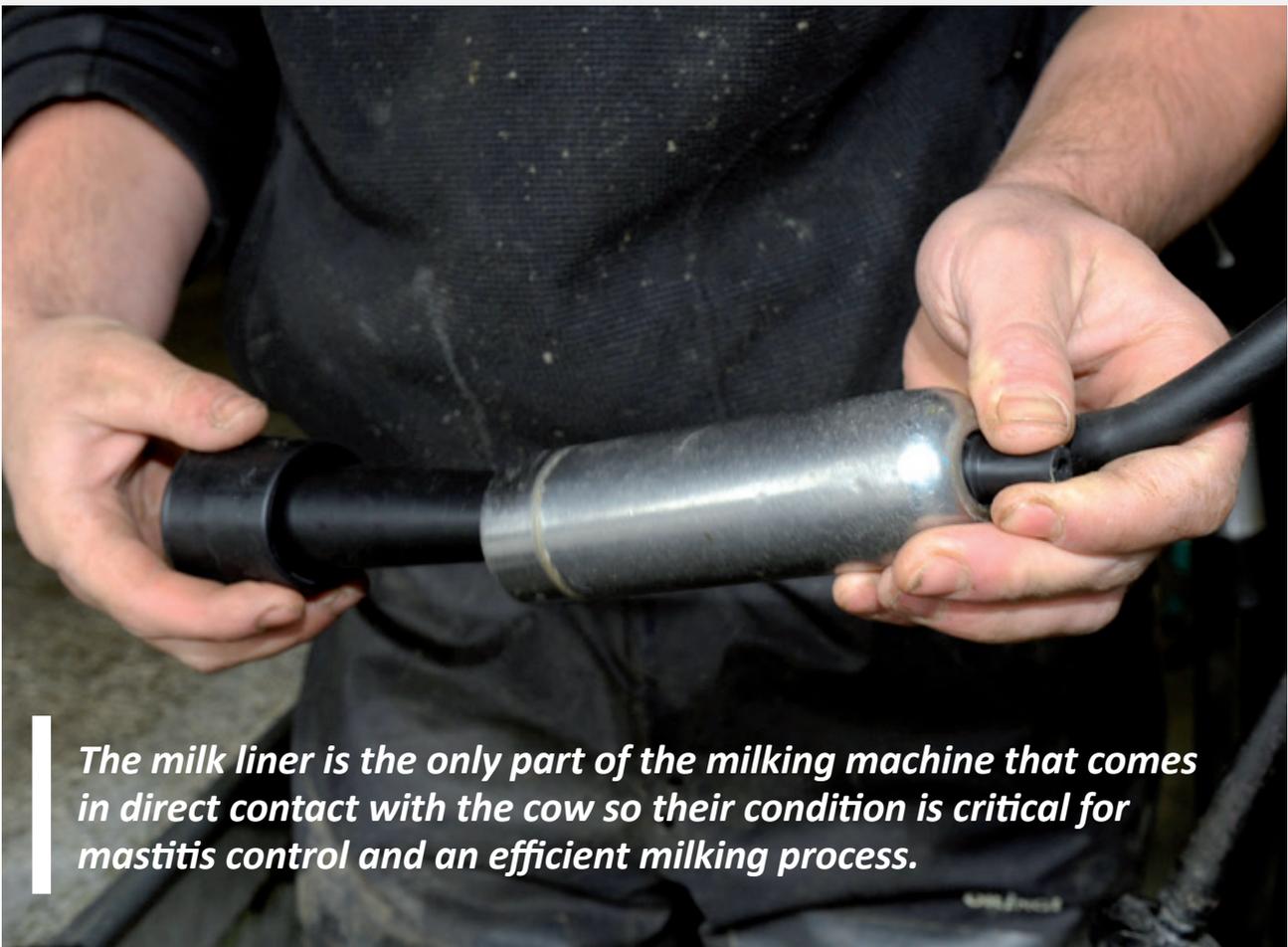


The importance of changing your milk liners

Michelle McGrath, Assistant CellCheck Programme Manager

I was back in Kerry this month with Eoghan McCarthy. His season is going well and when I spoke to him at the beginning of June he had completed his third milk recording of the year. Weather conditions have been challenging this year so I asked him how he avoids mucky areas in fields that can result in dirty udders, 'My water troughs are on a raised stone platform so that area isn't usually a problem and I use back fencing to avoid cows walking over the same area repeatedly'. He 'dry wipes any cow that is a bit muddy with paper towel before milking' and 'while I don't fore strip cows at this time of year I carry out a clot check on the filter sock after each milking which is graded and any evidence of clots means that all the cows are fore stripped before the next milking to identify the culprit'.



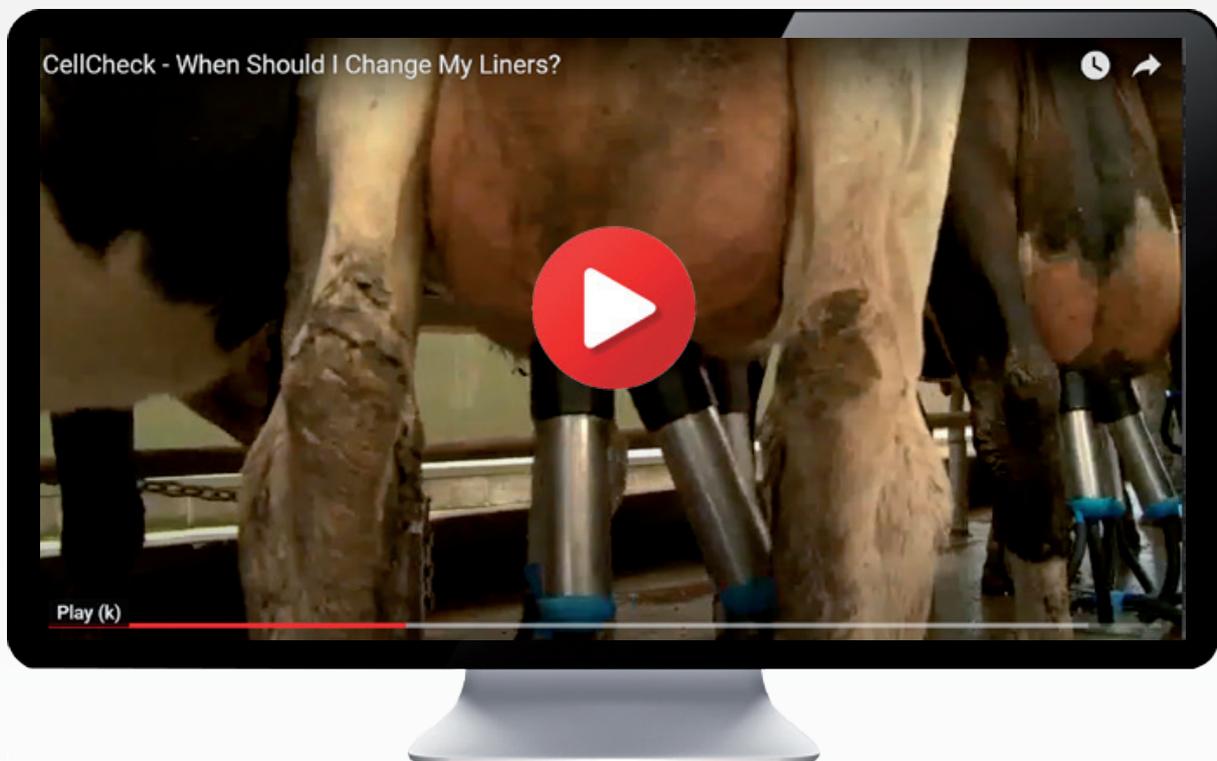
The milk liner is the only part of the milking machine that comes in direct contact with the cow so their condition is critical for mastitis control and an efficient milking process.

Eoghan was also about to change his liners. The milk liner is the only part of the milking machine that comes in direct contact with the cow so their condition is critical for mastitis control and an efficient milking process. Over time liners lose tension, absorb fat and hold bacteria. Rubber naturally deteriorates over time anyway, and this deterioration is enhanced with exposure to the cleaning products used for machine disinfection. This deterioration is sufficient to reduce the speed and completeness of milking while increasing teat end damage and the spread of mastitis bacteria. The interior of the liner can also become rough, making it more difficult to clean and disinfect allowing it to harbour bacteria, increasing the potential of mastitis and cross-contamination between cows. The industry recommendation is to change liners after 2,000 milkings or 6 months, whichever comes first. Herds that have increased in size, with parlour size staying the same, sometimes forget that each cluster is milking more cows now than it might have a few years ago meaning that liners may need to be changed every 3 or 4 months.

To work out exactly when you should change your liners, simply complete the following calculation.

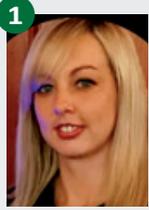
$$\text{Number of days in between liner changes} = \frac{2000 \times \text{Number of milking units}}{\text{Herd size} \times \text{Number of milkings per day}}$$

For more information see our short video online - [When Should I Change My Liners?](#)



CELLCHECK REGIONAL COORDINATORS

A Resource and Point of Contact for *CellCheck* Activities in your Area



1
Majella Mc Cafferty
086 0597949
majella.mccafferty@aurivo.ie
Mayo/Sligo/Donegal
Aurivo



2
John Murphy
066 7163200
john.murphy@kerry.ie
Kerry/Clare
Kerry Agribusiness



3
Aoife Feeney
afeeney@carbery.com
087 3484901.
West Cork
Carbery Group



4
Tom Downes
087 2564669
downest@lakeland.ie
Longford/Monaghan
Lakeland Dairies



5
Brendan Dillon
087 2626851
BrDillon@glanbia.ie
Cork/Waterford/
Wexford/Wicklow
Glanbia



6
Tom Starr
087 6697010
tstarr@arrabawn.ie
Tipperary/Limerick
National Co-op



7
John Fitzpatrick
086 0426567
fitzpatrickj@glanbia.ie
Kilkenny/Laois/Carlow/
Kildare/Dublin
Glanbia



8
Andrew O'Neill
086 1836505
aoneill@tipperary-coop.ie
Tipperary
Tipperary Co-Op



9
Denis Guiry
086 8098639
dguiry@dairygold.ie
Cork/Tipperary/Limerick
Dairygold



NATIONAL MASTITIS CONTROL PROGRAMME

Animal Health Ireland, 2-5 The Archways, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim, N41 WN27

