1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this SOP is to ensure consistent milking standards and to harvest colostrum from fresh cows. Fresh Cows are cows that have recently calved and are still in their first flush of lactation, which is within 2 weeks, possibly 4 weeks since calving.

2. RESPONSIBILITY

All permanent, casual and student staff

3. MATERIALS

3.1 Milker Action Sheet
3.2 Milk pail
3.3 Lid
3.4 Rubber seal and hose
3.5 Meter (if milk testing)
3.6 Box stall milking equipment (if necessary)
3.7 Treatment book
3.8 Oxytocin (if necessary)

4. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 Fresh cows should be milked after other cows without leg bands have been milked. They may have clinical or subclinical infections that could be passed on to other cows. On the 7th milking post-partum, they are tested and only when the tests are negative, can the blue band and fresh card be removed.

4.2 Fresh cows must not be left unattended during the milking procedure.

4.3 The Fresh cows could be in a box stall or on the milk line.

4.4 Fresh cows are identified with blue leg bands and orange FRESH card labels overhead.

5. PROCEDURES

5.1 Read all instructions on the Milker Action sheet. There is a list of fresh cows and harvested colostrum.

5.2 Check the Close Up Dry (CUD) cows and cows in the box stall (or tie stalls if space is limited) for newborn calves. Identify the cow with a fresh card and blue leg bands when there has been a calving.

5.3 If there is a new calving, add it to the Fresh Cow section of the Milker Action Sheet indicating the Cow name and ID number.

5.4 Ensure that all FRESH cows are identified as you milk; Replace any missing cards or leg bands.

5.5 Refer to the milker action sheet for instruction by the Lead Technician and Dairy Manager as to when a FRESH cow's milk can be milked into the bulk tank.

5.6 If the cow is in a box stall: Assess her stability.

5.6.1 If she is even slightly unstable, DO NOT try removing her from the box stall.

5.6.2 If she is 100% capable of leaving the box stall:

5.6.2.1 Sprinkle limestone "grit" on the floor of the box stall.
5.6.2.2 Once she is in a tie stall, attach the chain to her collar.
5.6.2.3 If the animal is stressed, it may be necessary to tie the halter as to prevent her from backing up and pulling the milker off.
5.6.2.4 If the animal is kicking, it may be necessary to use the kicking clamp and or cranking her tail up.

5.7 For the first milking after calving:
5.7.1 A cow MUST NOT be milked out completely. (8-10 litre max.).
5.7.2 When the flow on the milking unit falls to 1-1.5 litres/minute, press the STOP button on the milking unit panel. DO NOT try pulling the milker off to remove it; you may cause damage to the teats.

5.8 Prepare cows for milking as per SOP DC-605: Preparing Cows for Milking.

5.9 Milk the cow as per the condition-appropriate SOP DC-609: Milking Pail cow in Tie Stall or DC-610: Milking Pail Cow in Box Stall.

5.10 If the cow is not letting her milk down:
5.10.1 Gently massage the udder and reapply the milker;
5.10.2 In some cases it may be necessary to use oxytocin.
5.10.2.1 Wait approximately 2 minutes for the Oxytocin to take effect before reinstalling the milker. Wear gloves when handling the hormone.
5.10.2.2 Record Oxytocin administration in the treatment Book.

5.11 Return the cow to the box stall as soon as possible after milking.

5.12 If harvesting colostrum, refer to SOP DC-501: Colostrum Management.

5.13 Update the Milker Action Sheet with quantity of colostrum harvested for the next milking crew. Refer to SOP DC-501: Colostrum Management.

5.14 Wash equipment and Milk House as per SOP DC-606: Post Milking Procedures.

**Document Status and Revision History**

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