

# expert view #3

**We asked Dr Paolo Moroni, DVM, PhD, dipl. ECBHM, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Milan, Italy, for his views on udder health**

**In order of importance, what are your recommendations for a program with high efficacy for the dry cow period (focused on the prevention and treatment of udder infections)?**

Recent studies have confirmed that the environmental pathogens are the most significant cause of new intramammary infections during the dry period.

The NMC recommended mastitis control point <http://www.nmconline.org/docs/NMCchecklistNA.pdf> shows some important points for effective dry cow management

At drying off, two main principles involved in the prevention of IMI are to minimise the challenge from the environment and increase the cow's

efficiency and reduce mastitis incidence. Milking management covers all aspects of the process of obtaining milk from cows quickly and effectively, while assuring the health of the cows and the quality of the milk

**What is the right way to administer OrbeSeal in high producing dairy farms?**

The correct dry cow procedures must be followed to prevent mastitis infections. Disposable gloves should be worn during the disinfection process

1. Disinfection of teat apex before insertion of the cannula
2. Dry Cows Therapy
3. Disinfection again of teat apex before insertion of the cannula
4. Administer OrbeSeal
5. The product must stay in teat cistern
6. Teat dipping at the end of the procedure
7. The cow should not lay down 20-30 min after the administration

**“Milk quality is dependent on three points; the cows, their environment and the milking routine”**

own defences. Use of antibiotic dry cow therapy and internal or external teat sealants plus a clean and well-bedded environment is essential to reduce the IMI during the first 10 days after dry off and at calving. Dry cows must receive the same level of care as the milk producing cows

**What are the major concerns in Udder Health Management in your daily practice?**

Milk quality is dependent on three points; the cows, their environment and milking routine.

Using good bedding management will increase income from milk quality premiums and improve udder health. Lower bacterial loads at the teat end will reduce the incidence of environmental mastitis. The frequency of changing the bedding material it's very important to keep the bacteria count as low as possible so teat ends and udders are in contact with the lowest number of bacteria. Bedding management practices are affected by many factors, including the cow density, stall cleaning frequency, stall design and alley scrapping frequency.

Milking is also important, single activity on the dairy farm and good milking practices can increase herd performance, increase parlour

