



ON FARM LEARNINGS OF AUTOMATIC MILKING SYSTEMS

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FARM EXPERIENCE FROM CLIENTS WITH AUTOMATIC MILKING SYSTEMS

- **AMS are reliable and shows up everyday**
 - No COVID
 - No requested pay raises
 - Doesn't come to work late
- **AMS are like people and can't be ignored**
 - Need to communicate with our people and we need to do daily and weekly maintenance on units
 - If neglected, turnover will be high and expensive

CONSULTING CLIENTS WITH AMS

Farm 1	16 units	Lely	No Parlor	Sand
Farm 2	8 units	DeLaval	Parlor	Sand
Farm 3	8 units	Lely	Parlor	Sand
Farm 4	19 units	Lely	No Parlor	Sand
Farm 5	24 units	DeLaval	Parlor	Sand
Farm 6	10 units	Lely	Parlor	Sand
Farm 7	12 units	Lely	Parlor	Sand

98.1 lb Energy Corrected Milk Production Average

FARM EXPERIENCE FROM CLIENTS WITH AUTOMATIC MILKING SYSTEMS

- Clients with the combination of parlor and AMS are tending to see better overall herd and financial performance
 - Criteria for selection into the AMS
 - + Milk speed
 - + Teat placement
 - + Voluntary visits/day
 - New cow introduction is a scheduled activity done once or twice a week
 - + Maximizing milk is a function of training fresh cows to be milked at least 3X
 - + Inconsistent visits has also resulting in more mastitis

FARM EXPERIENCE FROM CLIENTS WITH AUTOMATIC MILKING SYSTEMS

- **What is the best way to utilize the 3,600 seconds that are available each hour?**
 - How frequently should you allow cows to be milked?
 - What level of milk production is required to allow a milking?
 - What is the proper balance between number of cows/box and milk production/box?
- **There tends to be a lack of data on best practices for herds with production exceeding 100 pounds/cow/day**



FARM EXPERIENCE FROM CLIENTS WITH AUTOMATIC MILKING SYSTEMS

- **Higher incidence of bimodal milk let down**
 - Short duration between initial of prep and unit attach has resulted in inconsistent milk flow
 - + Increased brush time to help reduce hyperkeratosis

FARM EXPERIENCE FROM CLIENTS WITH AUTOMATIC MILKING SYSTEMS

- Supplies and repairs are generally intermixed and hard to separate based on billings done with AMS systems
 - Combined services are generally running \$14,000 - \$16,000/box/year
 - + Using 63 cow average/box, cost is \$222 - \$254/cow annually
 - + Maintenance is done as preventative to avoid downtime
 - Conventional parlors generally run repair costs of \$45 - \$55/cow annually and supplies of \$65 - \$80/cow annually for a total combined cost of \$110 - \$135/cow

FARM EXPERIENCE FROM CLIENTS WITH AUTOMATIC MILKING SYSTEMS

- **Overall income over feed cost tends to be slightly less**
 - Feed efficiency is .02 -.05 pounds energy corrected milk less/lb dry matter
 - Feed cost is generally slightly more as a result of pelletizing some of the feed
- **Cow condition is higher in late lactation AMS cows**
 - Late lactation cull cows are of higher value than in a traditional parlor
 - Large body condition score changes occurring in early lactation resulting in lower reproductive performance

FARM EXPERIENCE FROM CLIENTS WITH AUTOMATIC MILKING SYSTEMS

- Questions clients are asking based on experiences seen
 - Should heifers be in a separate group rather than mixed with mature cows?
 - What is an acceptable amount of overcrowding?
 - Should cows be moved once they hit lower production levels so that the PMR can be less dense and still encourage cows to go to the boxes?
 - Should prep time be increased to encourage better milk letdown?

Thank You

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