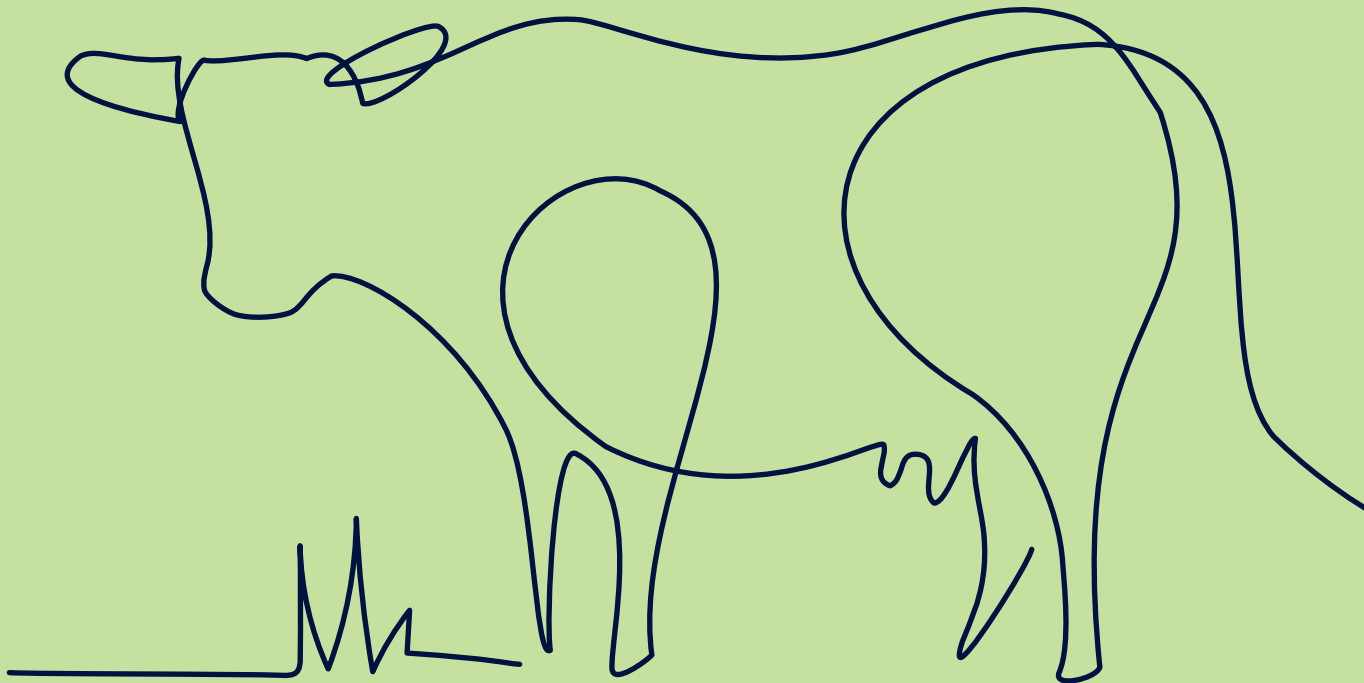


FARM FITNESS CHECKLIST

Milk Quality



Checklist for Milk Quality adapted
from Dairy Australia's Our Farm,
Our plan program

KEY CONTACTS

Regional Teams are the place to go about what's happening in your region. Contact them to find out about 'Our Farm, Our Plan' and other training, workshops, events and resources that are available.

Through the Regional Teams Dairy Australia supports farmer groups, including discussion groups, Young Dairy Network groups and others. Contact them about 'Our Farm, Our Plan' group activities and other programs that your group might benefit from.

		GippsDairy dairyaustralia.com.au/gippsdairy 03 5624 3900			Murray Dairy dairyaustralia.com.au/murray-dairy 03 5833 5312
		DairyNSW dairyaustralia.com.au/dairynsw 0407 434 073			Subtropical Dairy dairyaustralia.com.au/subtropical-dairy 0431 197 479
		DairySA dairyaustralia.com.au/dairysa 0408 358 414			Western Dairy dairyaustralia.com.au/western-dairy 0447 261 607
		DairyTas dairyaustralia.com.au/dairytas 03 6432 2233			WestVic Dairy dairyaustralia.com.au/westvic-dairy 03 5557 1000

DairyNZ has kindly given permission for Dairy Australia to adapt their QuickPlan and Farm Fitness Checklist resources for use by the Australian dairy industry. This is much appreciated and is another example of Trans-Tasman collaboration providing benefit to Australasian dairy farmers.

dairynz.co.nz



Our Farm, Our Plan has been developed with support from the Gardiner Dairy Foundation, reinforcing the value of the dairy industry working together.

gardinerfoundation.com.au



MILK QUALITY

Farm Fitness Checklist

This resource has been developed using the Our Farm, Our Plan approach. It is designed to provide a detailed appraisal of your milking and mastitis management and help you identify and prioritise improvements that are tailored to your farm and business.

How to use this checklist

Work through each row of the checklist and rate how you feel your business is performing. This is designed to prompt your thinking about different aspects of your milking and mastitis management and identify opportunities for improvement. It's a 'self-assessment' and there are no right or wrong answers. Your job is to identify areas that might be a priority for you by ticking the box that best describes where you are at for each question.



It is also recommended that you complete the quick SWOT. SWOT stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. Strengths and weaknesses are internal factors, like the farm team, staff turnover, infrastructure, and location. Opportunities and threats, by contrast, are usually external factors, like milk price, beef prices, feed price and adverse weather.

Try scanning through the checklist before you start ticking so that you have an idea of what's included. The aim is to identify and focus on a small number of areas that will move you forward significantly.



In each section of the checklist there is also list of resources that you might find useful. Many of these can either be found on Dairy Australia's website (www.dairyaustralia.com.au), ordered in hard copy or will be provided at Milking and Mastitis Management workshops. Information and support are also available from your Regional Team. They are your local connection point to Dairy Australia (see contact information at left).

Now, where, how?

Completing the checklist will give you a good sense about where your milking and mastitis management is currently. During a Milking and Mastitis Management workshop, you will work through getting your 'where and how' down on paper together with the support of your group and an experienced consultant. However, you can also use this checklist by yourself or together with your own trusted advisor.

Our Farm, Our Plan

If you have not yet done so, it is recommended you consider attending an Our Farm, Our Plan program which steps you through a similar process for all aspects of your farm business. Our Farm, Our Plan is a program designed to assist farmers to use the plans that are often in their heads to develop a clear understanding of their long-term business and personal goals.

MILK QUALITY

	Yes, we've nailed it	Ok, but we could do better	No, and we should do something about it	No, and it's not relevant to us
	✓	✓	✓	✓
We are satisfied the quality of milk that leaves our farm, and we rarely incur milk quality discounts from our milk processor.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In the past three years, we have not contaminated either a vat or milk tanker with antibiotic residues.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Everybody on the farm team has completed either Cups on Cups off or Milking and Mastitis Management training in the past three years and has been trained in the detection of clinical mastitis.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Everybody on the farm team who infuses intramammary products into the udder have been appropriately trained in hygienic administration techniques by our veterinarian.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
We keep permanent records of all clinical mastitis treatments including Cow ID, quarter, product used, individual treatment dates and times and withholding periods.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our treatment records are easily analysed, and we have less than 5 in 100 cows calved less than two weeks with clinical mastitis per month and less than 2 in 100 cows calves more than two weeks with clinical mastitis per month.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
We have conducted milk cultures from individual cows and know whether the pathogens responsible for mastitis on our farm are environmental or cow-associated (contagious).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
We have developed treatment protocols with our veterinarian and follow these for the different forms of clinical mastitis we see on our farm (e.g. "sick milk", "sick udder", "sick cow").	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
We do not treat cows with subclinical mastitis (high cell count or positive on rapid mastitis/paddle test) during lactation and we only treat cows with swollen quarters or if abnormal milk (e.g. clots, discolouration) persists after three squirts.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
All milking staff wear new milking gloves every milking and disinfect or change them after touching or detecting a cow with clinical mastitis.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our teat disinfectant is mixed according to label directions with good quality boiled and cooled water, or is an RTU, and is always sealed and stored out of direct sunlight.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Yes, we've nailed it	Ok, but we could do better	No, and we should do something about it	No, and it's not relevant to us
	✓	✓	✓	✓
We apply teat disinfectant thoroughly to all surfaces of the teat immediately after cups off and regularly assess the adequacy of our teat disinfection technique.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Less than 20% of our cows have delayed let-down and we take steps to ensure cups are not put on too early or left on for too long (more than one minute after milk flow stops).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
We cull cows that have had three or more clinical cases of mastitis during a lactation or two or more high cell counts, for two consecutive lactations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
We are currently or are working towards implementing a selective (part-herd) antibiotic dry cow therapy.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
We work hard to minimise areas on the farm that are likely to contaminate teats and udders with mud and manure at calving time or between milking and wash and dry teats when they are dirty or wet before applying cups.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
We have enough hot water (at least 6-8L per unit per cycle) for a warm rinse, hot wash, and hot final rinse (unless using an acid sanitiser) following each milking.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
We regularly test our water quality and use the best quality water available on-farm for our wash and rinse and our wash chemicals are appropriate for the water quality we have available.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At least once daily, we check key surfaces of our plant (inside claw bowls, surface of receiver, surface of vat, vat outlet) are clean and free of fatty, protein, or mineral residues, that there is flow through all clusters during the wash cycle and that our milk has cooled to 5°C or less within 3.5 hours of the start of milking.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
At least once weekly, we check that our water temperature is at least 85°C at the start and at least 60°C end of the wash cycle, that our chemicals are dispensing at the correct dose rate (as per label directions), that there are no air leaks (e.g. around jetter assemblies), and our air injector is working correctly.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our plant, including the wash system, is tested in accordance with ISO or another internationally recognised technical standard and our vat is serviced at least annually.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
We replace our liners at least every 2,500 cow-milkings and other rubberware annually (or according to manufacturer's recommendations).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

QUICK SWOT

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS

Our action plan

Reflect on the ratings you have given yourself. Note the areas you want to focus on or could see opportunities in improving. List below two to three actions you plan to take.

OUR ACTIONS	BY WHO	BY WHEN	PRIORITY		
			High	Medium	Low

Resources

- Countdown Farm Guidelines for Mastitis Control* dairyaustralia.com.au/countdown
- Australian Dairy Hygiene Handbook* dairyaustralia.com.au/dairyhygiene
- Countdown Shed Guides* dairyaustralia.com.au/countdown
- Mastitis and Milking Management Contact your Regional Team

*Also available in hard copy from your Regional Team.



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