

Parlor efficiency tips



1. It's very important for milkers to find the right balance between milking speed and quality.
2. Cows need to spend the least amount of time possible in the holding area and more time resting in their stall.
3. For every extra hour that cows spend resting in their stalls, they will produce at least 3 more pounds of milk.
4. Teamwork is very important to achieve a very efficient system.
5. Consistency is also key. This means:
 - a. Milking every group ALWAYS at the same time in each shift, every day.
 - b. ALWAYS follow the same milking routine. Every shift, every day, and every worker.
6. Let your manager know if there's a very slow milking cow, or a cow that kicks a lot, or a lame cow.
7. Report immediately any problem with milking equipment, or with cows, or anything else that may affect your work efficiency.
8. Working fast doesn't mean you need to run, or rush cows into the holding area or parlor, or put machines too fast without stimulating cows properly.

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9. Working fast means:

- a. Making sure there's always machines on cows in one side while you are already working on the other side.
- b. Making sure there's always cows in the holding area.
- c. Stimulating cows very well to ensure they get milked faster.
- d. To start prepping cows as soon as a few are in the parlor.
- e. Not getting distracted when you started prepping cows on one side until all machines on that side are attached. Only turn around when a unit is squawking or a machine falls down.
- f. As soon as you are done attaching units on one side, turn around and start foaming cows on the other side and let cows go.
- g. Get more towels when you finish attaching machines.
- h. Number one priority of cow pusher is to ensure that there are always cows in the holding area.
- i. If the cow pusher has time, then help milkers by getting more clean towels, or foaming cows that are done and letting them go and getting more cows in the parlor. **DON'T** break the milking routine.

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10. **Keys for a good efficient milking:**
 - a. **CONSISTENCY** - This is the most important if you want to have healthy, very productive cows and with great milk quality. Milk every group ALWAYS at the same time and following the same milking routine.
 - b. **VERY GOOD STIMULATION** - The wiping process is the only time when cows are getting stimulated to get milk down. This is why it's so important to take about 10 seconds per cow wiping.
 - c. **AVOIDING DEAD TIMES** - This is when there's no cows getting milked, or when you are waiting for one or two cows to get done while all the other cows are waiting, etc.