Using MbT to efficiently milk a Herringbone dairy with 2 people (30 - 50 aside)
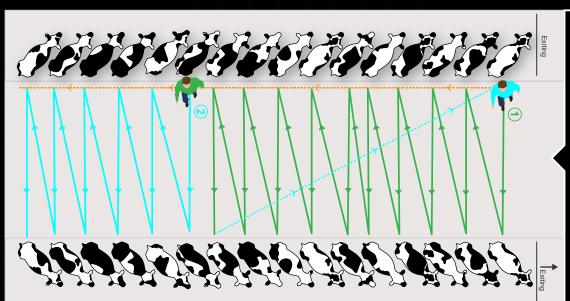

KEY

| Milker |
| *Changing cups* |

Milker
Walking

Milker
Teat spraying

Milker
Loading check
Cup slow cows

Milker 2
Can start at 11, 16, 21 or 26 depending on your dairy size and cow flow.

Try different batch sizes to find the best one for your dairy. When cows are slow exiting or loading then use smaller batch sizes.

Exiting
Exiting

Milking Tasks

Milking routine

1. Milker 1 ensure the first batch of cows are loaded and check milker 2 is ready to start.

2. Milker 2 ensure the second batch of cows are loaded.

3. Milker 1 check targeted time on the MbT has been reached. If not wait for the required time before you both start changing cups. Ensure Milker 2 is starting at about the same time as you.

4. Milker 1 and Milker 2 change all cups on their batch of cows without waiting for any slow milkers.

5. Once Milker 1 has changed all cups on their batch go back to front and teat spray the cows until you reach the last cow milker 2 has removed cups from (open exit gate at required point).

6. While Milker 1 is teat spraying Milker 2 continues to change cups on their group and potentially more cows. Milker 2 potentially changes more sets of cups as Milker 1 does most of the teat spraying.

7. *Check the MbT regularly to gauge the time you have to get the next row in position for milking.

When milking more than one batch each:

8. Milker 1 bunny hops past Milker 2 once all un-cupped cows are teat sprayed ensuring all the last cows are rowed up and starts changing the last cups.

9. Once Milker 2 has changed cups on their last cow they go back to the last cow teat sprayed and teat spray the last cows in the row making sure the exit gate was opened.

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Key drivers of efficiency

1. **Ensure all staff milking follow the same routine** so cows have consistency and milking times are similar.

2. **The first cow is the timer for the row** so base the MaxT time off her milking time. If you keep the same routine all the cows will get the same milking time.

3. **Aim to be cupping the first cow once the time on the MbT has past** - some rows you will be over time due to other tasks. It is important when milking to a MaxT time you don't start the row before the set row time is reached.

4. **Milk the cows in batches** – Larger batch sizes are achievable when doing a MaxT milking routine. You can choose to have milker 2 start at cow 11, 16, 21 or 26. Once you have decided on batch size mark the cups where milker 2 starts (with green tape on droppers). Try the different batch sizes and find what suits your dairy. When cow exiting and/or loading is slow then milk in smaller batches and teat spray as you go to allow early exit gate opening.

5. **Teat spraying –** With bigger batches Milker 1 will have more cows with cups off to teat spray. If Milker 2 starts at cup 11 or 16 they will continue to change cups and Milker 1 will teat spray all uncupped cows, open gate and change cups on the last cows. Many farms have changed to drag hose teat sprayers. These are easier when spraying bigger groups – less turning and stretching for milkers.

6. **Open exit gate once teat spraying** is completed on 40-70% of cows in the row depen ding on how cows are flowing.

7. **Hosing down –** milking area should only be hosed on the side cups are on. Never hose down on the side cows are exiting or entering dairy. This will spray dirty water on the teats of cows exiting and also interrupt cows loading.

8. **Take the space** – Use the backing gate little and often. Each row 30 to 50 cows are leaving the yard so take the space of these cows each row. Ensure all the milkers use the backing gate the same way.

9. **Keep noise in the dairy to a minimum**. No yelling or hitting cows. You want them comfortable to entry.

10. Exceptionally **slow milking cows** with lots of milk left in udder not milked out at the PM milking - consider marking and then cup first when they are seen at milking and cow on other side is finished. If cupped early you don't need to wait for the cows when the row time is up.

ⓘ Important

▶ When milking by MaxT (time) it's important that the cows are milked to the targeted row time and not faster than the time. Monitor the data from the MbT to ensure everyone is milking to the correct time.

▶ Monitor the percentage of cows being shortened. If greater than 20% increase the MaxT times. If less then you can shorten the times.

Refer to to this video on Instagram
www.instagram.com/p/CUom-NXp-ro/