The Irish Agriculture and Food Development Authority

SOP a Priority for Dairy Farmers

- Standard Operating Procedure For Milking Machines
- Vast range of control systems on modern milking machines.

Create a Step by Step guide for Users

- Covid 19 virus will inevitably lead to some farming families going into isolation

- Can your neighbour operate your milking machine or can you operate theirs

- Create an SOP to make life easier for outside help on your farm:-

  - How to guide for

    - Setup Machine for Milking

    - Setup Machine for Washing

    - Wash procedures (each day hot, cold etc.)

    - Turning on Milk Tank

    - Washing the Milk Tank

    - Calf Feeding volume of milk for each group (automatic calf feeder controls)

    - Animal Feeding per group, quantities & number of feeds per day

- Label items such as water heater switches, feed auger controllers, calf pens etc.

- Cleary label all drums to prevent accidental miss use.

- If possible use phone to create a video guide of the setup and operation of more complex items.

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Bear in mind that although you are very used to operating your milking parlour, someone coming in to help out over the coming weeks might not find it that easy to figure out. Modern parlours are complex pieces of equipment with a lot of controls. Wash procedures have become a lot more complex particularly since the introduction of chlorine free washes.

SAMPLE SOP (needs to be written for your parlour)

<u>Milking parlour controls</u>

- **Make sure bulk tank tap is closed.**
- **Turn on bulk tank as soon as one line of cows are milked.**
- **Check drums for teat dip and detergents regularly, if empty replace.**
- **Check dairy after first line of cows to ensure milk is not leaking anywhere.**

1. Release excess water from drain on the filter cage in the dairy
2. Open filter cage and insert filter sock (filter socks found in plant room) and close drain.
3. Place milk line into bulk tank and dump line into the tank for calves.
4. Using arrows on the control box select *'**Ready to milk'**** and press the *green button*.
5. Enter the pit, turn *on hose taps left and right* over head going down the steps.
6. Using any unit computer type in *F 1 0 0* and *enter* (clusters will lift automatically).
7. To feed the cows go to feed box, determine what side by pressing *0.* Determine feed amount by choosing what *number*. Feed full row of cows by pressing *? 0* and *enter*.
8. To dump milk press *F1* until Dr (dump right) or *Dl* (dump left) appears, turn off ACR by pressing *** button.
9. Wash liners with water hose after dumping cow and spray teat spray up afterwards.
10. To prepare units for washing place clusters on jetter's and deactivate ACR by pressing *** button on each control unit.
11. Once all clusters are on the wash line, press *F3* in the dairy to purge the milk system. Press the *two green buttons at the dairy door to fill the meal augers*.
12. Once purges are complete (after 2 min. approx.) turn off machine by pressing the *red button* at the dairy computer.
13. Release milk in filter cage, remove filter, take milk line and dump line in the bulk tank room and connect to wash line.
14. Use the arrows on the computer in the dairy to press *hot wash*, press the *green button*.

Online data base

Teagasc in association with the milking machine manufacturers is creating an online resource where farmers can access basic SOP's for different milking machine models. The idea is that these can then be tailored to suit each farm.

This will be live before the end of March 2020

https://www.teagasc.ie/animals/dairy/SOPs/

https://www.teagasc.ie/animals/standard-operating-procedures/