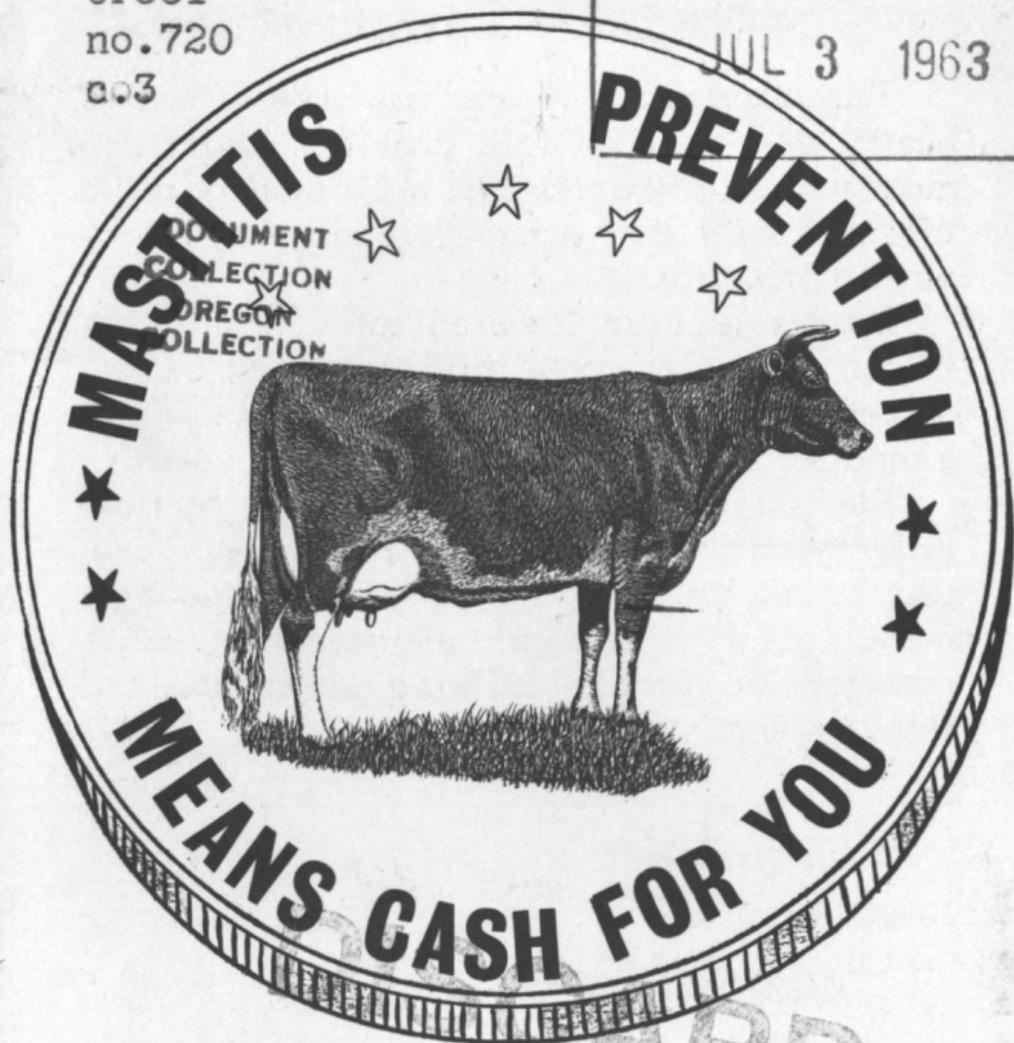


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## ***Control Mastitis By . . .***

- Herd Management
- Equipment Maintenance
- Proper Milking Methods
- Veterinary Service

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## The Dairy Operation

The occurrence of mastitis creates both a health and an economic problem. Dairymen must sell only wholesome, high quality milk. *Mastitis milk may cause degrading and serious financial loss.*

Losses include lowered milk production per cow, contaminated milk that must be discarded, a shorter productive life per cow, and a reduced sale value of cows.

Successful herd operation, and particularly mastitis control, requires regular attention to all the details of good herd management, good equipment maintenance, daily practice of proper milking methods, and timely use of veterinary service.

*Do not sell  
unwholesome milk - - -*

## The Milking Equipment

- Keep all rubber and metal parts clean, in good condition, and operating properly.
- Replace rubber parts periodically before they develop cracks and holes.
- Maintain vacuum at the teat cups as specified by the manufacturer.
- Keep pulsator speeds regular with proper and complete milking and rest phases as recommended by the manufacturer.
- Be certain vacuum and air flow are adequate to do all the services required and remain constant.

- Check equipment regularly using a check list.
- Contact an equipment serviceman if the machine is not operating correctly.

## The Cow

- Provide clean, dry yards and loafing area.
- Keep all cows in a clean and sanitary condition.
- Give cows plenty of room in the feed yard and loafing area.
- Keep cows quiet and pen all cows in heat.
- Dehorn all cows.
- Handle infected cows separately from the main herd.
- Do not bring infected animals into the herd.
- Test the milk from each cow every month with a recognized mastitis test. When mastitis is present, test milk from each quarter. Keep permanent health and treatment records on each cow for use as a guide to proper treatment and for culling purposes.
- Work closely with a veterinarian. He can recommend the right time and type of treatment based on laboratory identification of the organisms causing trouble.

## The Milking Procedure

- Thoroughly wash and dry the udder using paper towels or individual cloth towels which have been washed and sanitized between milkings.
- Make certain teat ends are clean.

- Use a strip cup to check milk from each quarter and stimulate let-down.
- If off-quality milk is found, milk the cow separately and discard the milk.
- Place teat cups on teats *ONLY AFTER* milk is let down—usually about one minute after washing the udder.
- To machine strip, pull teat cups downward and gently massage the udder downward.
- Turn off vacuum, break vacuum at teat cup, and remove the machine gently. Average milking time is three or four minutes.
- Do not leave teat cups on for a second after milk flow stops. *Milking dry teats causes internal teat injury.*
- Slight under-milking is less harmful than over-milking.
- Check udder and teats for injury and needed medication.
- The condition of your herd's health may require more detailed management procedures.

## The Milker

*Effective mastitis prevention and control depends on the man that milks the cow and his correct use of properly operating equipment.* The milker must follow exactly all details of correct milking procedure at every milking every day.