

Countdown Downunder Technote Update Pack February 2003

PURPOSE

The Countdown Downunder Technote update pack February 2003 incorporates technical issues and new information relevant to the Australian industry that emerged since the Technotes were first published in January 2000 (Table 18).

THE PRODUCT

The updates come as a shrink wrapped pack of 72 double-sided, four hole-punched pages with four revised Technotes (7, 9, 13 and 25), a revised FAQ sheet ('Teat sealants'), three new FAQ sheets (on 'Liners', '*Strep ag*' and 'Withholding periods') and a new index.

AUDIENCE

The Technotes are an information resource for people who advise Australian farmers on issues of udder health and milk quality.

HOW TO USE

The update pack can be ordered from Countdown (an order form is also available from the website). It costs \$38.50 including GST or \$108.35 for the complete revised Technote package. Advisers are encouraged to incorporate the update pack into their Technote folder, placing the new pages in their correct position and removing outdated material from the folder.

EXAMPLES OF USE

The new technical material was discussed with the 398 advisers attending the 2003 Countdown Downunder Adviser Conferences. There have been multiple news articles about the impact of water quality on teat disinfectants, the role of teat sealants in the dry cow strategy (including an insert 'Make drying off count' in *The Australian Dairyfarmer* May-June 2004) and monitoring teat health.

THE FUTURE

Another update pack will be released in the third phase of the project to describe new tools and processes that will become available to the industry – supporting Mastitis Focus and Cell Check in particular.

PROJECT LEARNING

The Technotes were designed in a loose-leaf folder to enable new information to be incorporated and to ensure the science and research priorities maintained their relevance. This process has been ongoing with revisions and add-ins posted on the

Countdown website. Print and publication of the Technote Update Pack gave advisers ready access to a large volume of new information. Use of the pack as the core technical material in the 2003 Adviser Conferences was key to helping them engage with the materials.

Table 18: Examples of new information incorporated in the Technote update pack

Technote 7	Clear direction on what to do if teat disinfectant is unregistered
	Factors to consider when selecting and reviewing teat disinfectant on farm
	Tips for testing the final mix of teat disinfectant solutions and water on farm
	Practical methods of providing high quality water for many tasks in the dairy (making up teat disinfectants, preparing udders and washing equipment) was identified as a research priority (moderate)
Technote 9	Changes to the labelling requirement of new products so they are consistent with industry recommended guidelines
	A worked example of how to add emollient and maintain active ingredient at the correct concentration in the final mix
	More efficient methods of dispensing teat disinfectants to improve teat skin coverage and minimise labour was identified as a research priority (high)
Technote 13	Revised teat end scoring system and recording sheet for teat condition consistent with international teat evaluation methods
	The need to refine interpretation of teat evaluation (especially thresholds of concern for different teat conditions) was identified as a research priority (moderate)
	A sample size guide for detecting teat abnormalities in the herd
	A table showing how various machine factors, milking management and environmental factors can influence teat condition
Technote 25	A flow chart showing the general approach to investigating a mastitis problem
	A detailed description of how to use the Countdown Downunder Mastitis Investigation Pack
	Tips for efficient data collection during milking-time tests and observations
Liners	A better understanding of how advisers can package and deliver their services in a way that encourages farmers to adopt the recommendations was identified as a research priority (moderate)
	A detailed description of Countdown reports for the performance testing of milking machines
<i>Strep ag</i>	A guide for determining whether liners need changing – replacing old liners or changing to a different type of liner
	The keys to eradicating <i>Strep ag</i> in dairy herds
Teat sealants	A clearer, simpler set of physical guidelines to indicate when liners have reached their 'use-by' date was identified as a research priority (high)
	Which herds benefit from using teat sealants
	A guide to choosing an appropriate dry cow treatment strategy (the revised Countdown Downunder Farm Guidelines for Mastitis Control Fact Sheet C)
Withholding periods	A model that enables advisers to assess the cost benefit of dry cow strategy option in individual herds was identified as a research priority (high)
	Understanding of practical issues that determine the success of using teat sealants in Australian dairying systems was identified as a research priority (high)
Withholding periods	A summary of milk and meat withholding periods following the use of intramammary antibiotic lactating or dry cow treatment (superseding the tables in Technote 3.1 and Technote 4.10)