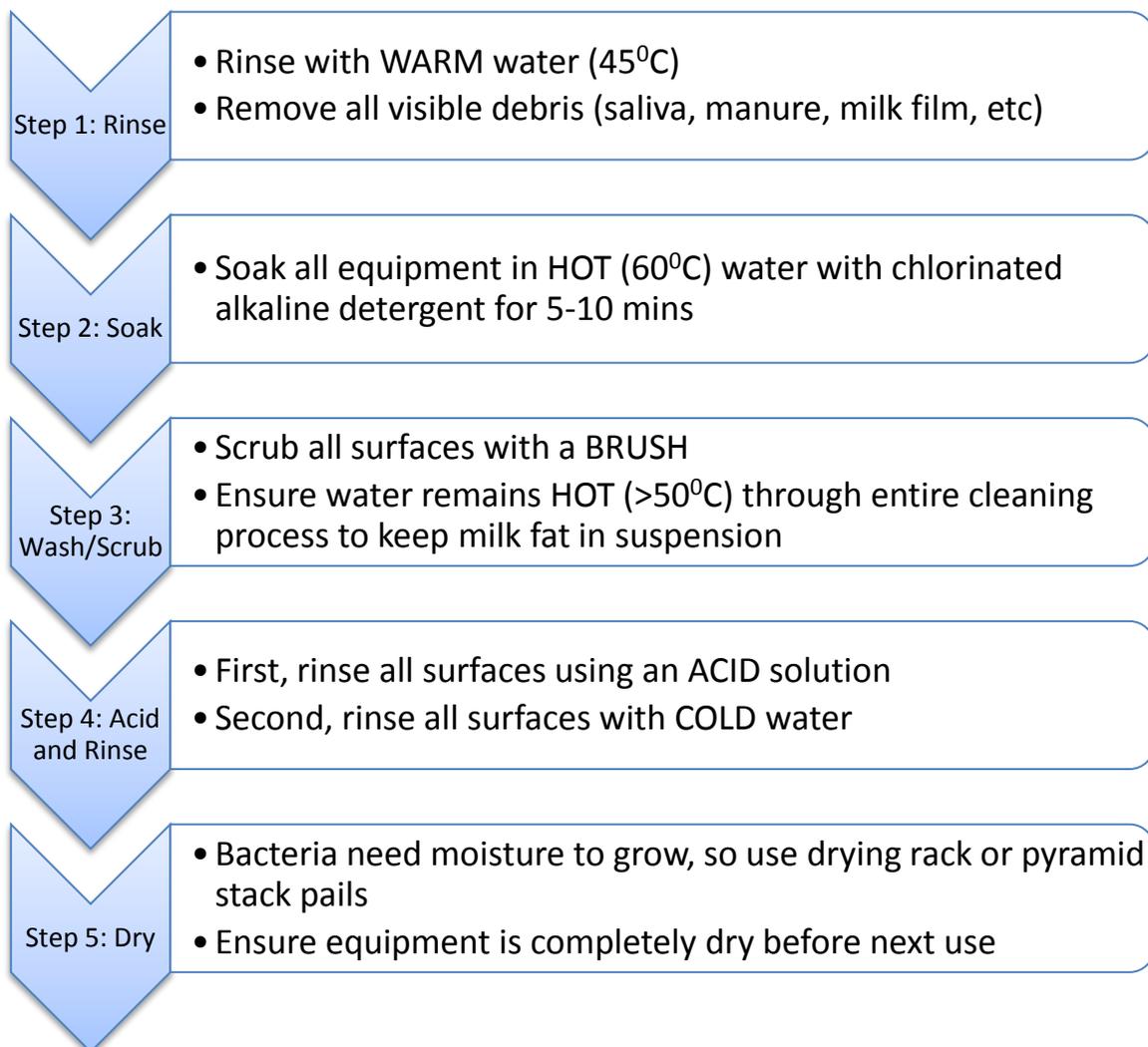

DAIRY NEWSLETTER

Calf Feeding Equipment Cleanliness

Would you feed your calves wet bedding, dirt or manure with their colostrum or milk? Of course not! Yet, not many farms have detailed calf feeding equipment cleaning protocols to prevent this from happening. Proper cleaning and sanitizing procedures of bottles, buckets, mob feeders, nipples and stirring utensils can mean extra work, however detailed cleaning protocols can be the difference between healthy and sick calves. It is important to have a consistent, efficient, cost-effective approach to keep calf feeding equipment clean.

Example best management practices cleaning protocol:





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As you can see, our best management practices do not include specific mixing formulas for the detergent and acid solution as each product is different and each farm has a different size wash basin. Many of these products are already on your farm being used to clean your milking equipment. Your herd veterinarian can assist you in developing mixing formulas and specific cleaning protocols that are appropriate for your operation. Remember to label and store all cleaning products according to label directions. Improper storage can result in decreased efficacy and can be a safety hazard. Ensure MSDS resources for these products are on site.

Other important considerations include discarding buckets and nipples that have rough surfaces allowing bacteria to reside in them. Regularly change brushes and other cleaning equipment to maintain efficacy. Ensure the person feeding the calves has clean hands, boots and clothing so they do not contaminate the calf feeding equipment. Disinfect boots and esophageal feeders after tending to sick calves.

Problems with calf feeding equipment cleaning most often encountered on farms:

- Lack of scrubbing with hot water and appropriate detergent
- Omission of the acid rinse step
- Not allowing feeding equipment to dry
- Resistance to discarding old buckets with rough surfaces

Take Home Messages

- Keep all surfaces that come into contact with calves clean - especially feeding equipment!
- Always follow the same routine when cleaning equipment to prevent bacterial growth
- Ask your herd veterinarian to help you develop mixing formulas and cleaning protocols for calf feeding equipment

New Services Available!

We are pleased to welcome Emily Allen RVT to the Kirkton Veterinary Clinic team. Emily will be primarily working as a large animal technician providing new services such as dehorning, dry matter calculation and whole herd vaccination programs. If you have any interest in utilizing these new services, do not hesitate to contact the clinic and we can schedule Emily for a farm visit.