Udder Health SOP

Work with your veterinarian to develop an udder health program that meets the needs of your dairy, minimizes the occurrence of mastitis and produces quality milk.
Review the plan with your veterinarian and the employees responsible for the procedures annually.

Objective: To produce high quality milk and promote the health and welfare of our cattle by minimizing mastitis.
Principles: Mastitis is bad for the health and welfare of the cow and our business. The challenge is to find the balance between excellent cow comfort and manageable cow cleanliness to promote udder health. Mastitis can be painful, has a negative effect on milk quality and should therefore be prevented and identified quickly when it occurs.

Farm:

Goals:
BTSCC : (recommended <200,000)
New infections: (recommended <2%)
Chronic Infections: (recommended <2%)
Fresh Infections: (recommended <5%)

Prevention: Maintenance of a Clean, Dry, Comfortable Environment

Area of Interest	What needs to be done	Employee Responsible	Schedule
Housing (All ages)	Stalls and all lying areas are maintained so that they are clean, dry and comfortable through good management of bedding ☐		
Ventilation	The system is maintained and functions properly ☐		
Stocking Density	Overstocking is not practiced ☐		
Fly control	The environment is maintained such that fly breeding and resting habitats are minimized ☐ Additional fly control strategies in place as needed:		
Heat Abatement	Fans ☐ Soakers ☐ Shade ☐		
Feed Bunk Management	Fresh feed and water is available after milking so that cows remain standing immediately after milking ☐		

Veterinarian of Record Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Prevention: Proper Milking Procedures			
Step	**What needs to be done**	**Employee Responsible**	**Schedule**
Cow Movement	Cows will be brought into the parlor quietly and calmly to allow for proper milk let down ☐		
Minimize Spread of Infection	All milkers wear clean gloves during milking ☐ Use Back-Flush ☐ Milk known infected cows LAST ☐		
Mastitis Detection & Stimulation of Milk Let Down	All cows are stripped to examine foremilk for signs of mastitis. ☐		
Udder Prep	Clean & Disinfect teats ☐ Dry teats with single use towel ☐		
Ensure Proper Milk Out	Attached teat cups squarely w/in 90 seconds of udder prep ☐ Adjust cluster to avoid or correct liner slips ☐ Avoid over milking ☐ Shut off vacuum to claw before removing cluster ☐		
Waste Milk	Unpasteurized waste milk will not be fed to calves ☐		

Prevention: Maintenance of Equipment			
Step	**What needs to be done**	**Employee Responsible**	**Schedule**
Service	All equipment will be regularly evaluated and serviced to maintain proper function ☐		
Replace	Replace Inflations ☐ Replace Milk Tubes ☐ Replace other rubber or plastic parts ☐		
Sanitize	Sanitize all equipment prior to each milking ☐ Thoroughly wash and sanitize equipment after each milking ☐		

Veterinarian of Record Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Control: Management of Mastitis			
Step	**What needs to be done**	**Employee Responsible**	**Schedule**
Detection	DHIA records – results evaluated monthly, new and chronic infections identified and addressed according to protocol ☐ Fore-stripping – each quarter checked daily for signs of mastitis and treated according to protocol ☐		
Record Keeping	Records will be kept including ID, quarter, treatment, and outcome for every case of mastitis even if it is not treated ☐		
Identification	Samples will be collected from every clinical quarter, frozen and saved for culture ☐		
Treatment	A treatment protocol will be established based on herd history and culture results ☐		
Dry Cow Therapy	A dry cow therapy protocol based on the judicious use of antibiotics will be developed with the herd veterinarian ☐		
Vaccination	Vaccinate with a gram-negative type vaccine to minimize the severity of coliform infections ☐		
Segregation	Cows with mastitis will be segregated from the herd and/or milked last ☐ Cows with a contagious pathogen will be segregated from the herd and/or milked last if not SOLD ☐ Newly purchased cows are tested prior to arrival and milked last until confirmed clean ☐		

Veterinarian of Record Signature: _____ **Date:** _____