

Pleased with new milking system

Milking speed, teat health said to be improved

MIDDLEBURY, Vt. -- Maggie Seeley, herds person at Weybridge Farms, Inc. near here, says since they have been using a Copulsation milking system, "the condition of teat ends is much better, we no longer pre-dip and the cows let down faster."

Robert Bowdish, farm owner, who installed the system in March 1996, said, "I think it's worth the money, definitely, I wish I'd installed it earlier."

On Weybridge Farms, 160 head of both black and red Holsteins, plus Jerseys, are milked twice daily in a double-8 herringbone parlor. The parlor was built in 1967 and has since been remodeled.

But prior to installing Copulsation, Robert, his wife, Phyllis and Maggie noticed the cows objected to entering the parlor. "They used to be real jumpy and made a lot of manure in the parlor," Robert said. "Some of the teat ends looked like they'd blown-out and some had black lesions on them. That was a problem for a long time."

Phyllis said they went through one whole winter trying to get rid of the black scabs on teat ends. "We tried about everything you can think of," she said. "We tried changing infla-

tions, using different teat dips and salves, but nothing seemed to work."

Late in 1995 they read about Copulsation. "It sounded like something that could solve our problems," said Robert. Next they made a special trip to Syracuse, N.Y. to speak with LR Gehm, LLC at the New York Farm Show.

Robert said he doesn't jump at something just because it's new and was aware of the fact that Copulsation has not been tested in any university trials. "A lot of farmers make things that work better than what can be bought on the regular market," he said. "Copulsation looks like it's built a lot heavier-duty than anything else out there."

Before purchasing the system, the Gehms brought their demonstration unit to Weybridge Farms for an evening milking. Phyllis said by just putting her finger in the teat cup on the demonstration unit, "you could feel the difference. The Copulsation system just felt gentler."

Robert liked the fact that the Gehms guarantee their system. "If it doesn't work they will take it out," he said.

Maggie, who has been employed at Weybridge Farms for three years, said they had a few more mastitis cases until the

cows got used to the new, slower rate of pulsation. Robert said the slower pulsation rate gives the teat ends a lot more rest. "If anything," he said, "it has increased milking speed."

Although the positive changes were gradual, Maggie said: "Now there are no slow milk-outs and no slow quarters." She also said the cows come in the parlor better and noted the absence of black scabs on teats.

Robert said the cows now stand quietly in the parlor and that his somatic cell count has dropped since he began using Copulsation. "It's still going down," he added.

Another thing that impressed him was the fact the Gehms called him about once a month for the first few months after installing Copulsation. "They called just to see if everything was still going well," he said, "they didn't just sell us the system and walk away."

The Copulsation Milking System is manufactured and distributed by LR Gehm, LLC of Lisle, N.Y. The sales office can be contacted at (607) 849-3880.



Maggie Seely puts a milker on a healthy teat in the parlor at Weybridge Farms, Inc. She said using Copulsation has improved the condition of teat ends and eliminated black scabs.