

GREEN MEANS CLEAN

It may not be much of a fashion statement, but Darling Downs dairy farmer, Leanne Judd, has discovered that wearing a green glove at the end of each milking saves both time and elbow grease.

She picked up the idea at CowTime's Shed Shake-up and has been hooked ever since.

"Exfoliating gloves cost a few dollars from a discount store but they are worth their weight in gold," said Leanne who does the lion's share of the milking with son, Evan or employee Kevin McConville.

Leanne and her husband, Wes, run a 220-cow, year round calving herd, Devonleigh, half an hour's drive east of Warwick.

On average, they have 200 cows each milking which takes about two hours in their 8-aside double-up herringbone shed. Although the milking equipment has been upgraded several times, the structure of the shed has changed little since it was built 21 years ago. "When conditions improve we'd like to make structural changes, but that will require a major investment. In the meantime we have to make the most of what we've got. Any little improvements - like the green glove - make a big difference right now," said Leanne.

Leanne puts on one of the gloves as the last row of cows leaves the shed, wearing it as she goes through the cleaning process. "In our summer heat, a splash of cow muck can dry out and become baked onto the pipework very quickly. Without the gloves, it takes real elbow grease to get rid of those splashes. But with the gloves, I just run my hand up and down the pipework a few times and it's gone," she said.

For an investment of less than \$5, Leanne has achieved a sparkling clean dairy with less effort than



Leanne Judd

before. In fact, she estimates the cleaning process is now about 15 minutes quicker.

"Often I just wear a glove on one hand, and carry the hose in the other. I'm so pleased with how much difference it makes that I've waved them at anyone who will listen."

And the annual spring clean of the dairy, which usually takes about four days was completed in half that time this year. "And it wasn't nearly as tiring as it usually is," she said.

CowTime's Shed Shake-ups were brought to Queensland by the SubTropical Dairy Program and DPI&F Queensland.

For more information phone CowTime on 03 5624 2221. CowTime is proudly supported by Dairy Australia and DPI Vic. Your Dairy Services levy making milking easier.

