

CowTime glossary

automatic milking installations

Machines that undertake all tasks to milk a cow, including teat preparation, cluster attachment and teat disinfection. Sometimes called 'robotic milking'.

cluster throughput

Number of cows that can be milked by a cluster in an hour, based on the milk yield of the cow and the dairy type.

cluster idle time

Time between cluster removal and attachment to next cow, part of unit time.

cow-flow

Movement of cows into and out of the dairy.

cups on cups off

Refers to a process, the complete milking time from attaching the first cluster to detaching the last cluster in a milking.

dairy efficiency

The balance between the labour output and equipment output.

dB (decibel)

Unit used to measure sound.

ergonomic, ergonomic milking

Refers to working conditions that consider worker comfort and physical limitations.

equipment output

The number of cows that can be milked by the equipment in an hour; determined by the unit time and the number of clusters.

flight zone

The 'personal space' of an animal. Entry into this space around an animal will cause it to move away.

green concrete

Concrete that is not yet hard and so is suitable for stamping or rolling.

junction

The joining or meeting point of one type of surface with another, i.e. the laneway-yard junction.

labour output

The number of cows that can be milked by the labour in an hour; determined by the work routine time and the number of milkers used.

labour productivity

Measured in litres/operator/hour or cows/operator/hour. An indication of what the labour can achieve in a milk harvesting system.

lazy cluster

An extra cluster in a herringbone dairy (over and above the number required for the milking positions).

let-down

Milk ejection caused by the release of oxytocin.

lux

Unit used to measure amount of light.

milk flow rate

The amount of milk that leaves the udder per minute.

maximum milk flow rate

The maximum milk flow rate is largely determined by the width of the streak canals at the end of each teat.

milk out time

The time that the cluster is attached to the udder, includes delay time before let-down, 'dribble time' near the end of milking and any over-milking time.

milker throughput

The number of cows that can be milked by an operator in an hour, based on the work routine time.

milking stall

Commonly referred to as a bail position, this is where the cow stands to be milked.

MPa

Megapascals – a measure of pressure, used to rate the strength of concrete.

operator

Milker.

over-milking

Over-milking is said to occur when the cluster remains attached to the teats after milk flow rate has dropped below 200 mL per minute.

pecking order

A colloquial term used to describe the social dominance groups within a herd.

slow milking cow

A cow with a slow milk flow rate, one that normally finishes milking after other cows in the batch.

social dominance groups

Herds have a clear social hierarchy. It is made up of groups of cows with a similar social status within the herd.

teat disinfection

This refers to the process of covering a teat with disinfectant (teat dip).

texturing concrete

Putting a surface finish on concrete – usually refers to some form of patterning to reduce the chance of cows slipping as they walk on it.

unit time

The time a cluster is allocated to a single cow – includes the milk out time, plus the cluster idle time.

work routine time

The number of seconds allocated to each cow by the milker to complete all of the tasks at milking.

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CowTime Regional Co-ordinators are based in all dairy regions across Australia.