

# CowTime glossary

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## **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.

# CowTime contacts

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## CowTime project contacts

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