



Case study

Kelly Dijs, Gippsland

An hour more a day to play

Coming from a family where everyone avoids milking, Kelly Dijs was delighted to cut almost an hour a day from milking time by following CowTime's Shorter Milking Secrets.

Kelly milks for her parents, Bernie and Bettine, whose property is near Yarram in Victoria's East Gippsland.

The 460-cow spring calving herd is milked in a 16-aside double up herringbone with automatic cup removers.

"None of us are keen on milking but I'm the one who does most of it at the moment," said Kelly.

When the CowTime team asked her to test its shorter milking secrets, Kelly jumped at the opportunity.

"It was very easy to put into practice and quickly became part of our routine," she said.

The principle is very simple: it's a waste of time waiting for slow milking cows to milk right out. CowTime calculated the Maximum Milk Out Time for the Dijs herd at peak lactation was 8½ minutes.

"What this means is that we never leave the cups on a cow for more than 8½ minutes," said Kelly.

For the first few milkings Kelly set a timer for 8½ minutes when she'd finished putting the cups on each side.

"When the timer went off, I took the cups off any cows that were still milking, even if they were high producing cows," she said. On average, about two cows each row had their cups removed early.

Kelly has cut 30 minutes off the morning milking and 20 minutes in the evening. It's had no impact on milk production, quality or cell counts.

"That's nearly an hour a day more time for me to do what I like," she said.

"Not only have I saved time, milking is easier and goes faster. I've cut out the dead time waiting for cows and I walk a lot fewer laps of the pit."

The secret's out

Find out the secret to saving time in your dairy. Attend *Shorter Milking Secrets*, CowTime's 2007 Shed Shake-up, coming to your region soon.

CowTime's Darold Klindworth says most of the tips from Shorter Milking Secrets involve little or no cost but challenge current milking routines and practices.

"Everyone should be able to take home time-saving routines that they can start using in their dairy the very next morning," Darold said.

You'll go home with your herd's maximum milk out time and a timer to get you started.

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.

→ Shorter Milking Secrets

- Cups on accounts for about 80% of the time a cow spends in the dairy so the trick is to maximise cluster throughput.
- Removing the cups early from slow milking cows cuts milking time without compromising production or milk quality. The trick is to know your herd's Maximum Milk Out Time.

(based on research conducted by the National Milk Harvesting Centre, Ellinbank)