



Case study

Tim, Elizabeth and Peter Crimp, WA

Never say never!

CowTime's calculations show the Crimp's dairy is one of the most efficient in the industry; their milking routine was so slick they weren't likely to gain a lot from Shorter Milking Secrets. CowTime is delighted to be proven wrong! The Crimps cut 10 minutes off each milking; and expect to save up to 20 minutes at peak production, using Shorter Milking Secrets.

Tim and Elizabeth Crimp dairy with their son, Peter, at Rosa Glen, east of Margaret River, in Western Australia. They milk about 280 cows year-round through a 14-a side double up herringbone with a single operator. Tim and Peter do most of the milking, with help from relief milkers.

"Ours is not a modern dairy; it's been modified many times over the years, always on a limited budget. So I was pleasantly surprised when CowTime's Milking Monitor report showed how efficient it is," said Tim.

CowTime calculated the Maximum Milk Out Time for the Crimp's dairy was about eight minutes. That means the cups should be taken off any cow that hasn't finished milking after eight minutes.

Although the Crimp's milking routine is very efficient, CowTime did discover that several cows took much longer than eight minutes to milk out.

"We used the CowTime timer and found about 20 cows were taking longer than eight minutes - some almost double that. The slow cows were not fresh cows or the high producers. They were holding up the whole row for no real gain," said Tim.

In contrast, a cow producing 50L/day milked out in less than eight minutes.

When Tim and Peter started taking the cups off the slow cows early, they immediately cut milking time by about 10 minutes. "We didn't have to work any harder to get out of the dairy sooner. If anything it was more pleasant because cow flow improved and there was less standing around waiting," said Tim.

The auto-cow ID and computer system enabled Tim to monitor individual cow production. "The slow cows dropped production for about a week after we started taking the cups off early, and then they bounced back again," he said. There was no impact on daily milk in the vat, milk quality or mastitis.

The Crimps use the CowTime timer every now and then to monitor how they are going. "I'm looking forward to our production peak later in the year because we expect to cut about 20 minutes off milking. That's not bad for no cost and no real effort!" said Tim.

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. Shorter Milking Secrets involve little or no cost but challenge current milking routines and practices.

Everyone will go home with ideas to put into practice at the next milking, their herd's Maximum Milk Out Time and a timer to get 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 (MMOT).

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

