

CONSTRUINDO SABERES, FORMANDO PESSOAS E TRANSFORMANDO A PRODUÇÃO ANIMAL

MILKING MACHINE: THE FARMERS POINT OF VIEW

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Milk machine working at its optimum makes milking faster and more efficient. Milk quality and cows lifespan are related to the correct and programmed adoption of milking machine preventive maintenance. The current research identified the awareness of dairy farmers related to milking machine and its role in the milk production system. A semi-structured interviews composed of question that evaluate the importance and maintenance of milking machine was applied to 30 farms in the West of Santa Catarina State. Ninety percent of farmers had milk production under pasture with concentrate supplementation. Other production system adopted was compost barn (10%). Farms had average daily production of 21.04 L/cow/day, with 38.5 cows milking each farm. Mostly farmers (90%) keep preventive maintenance of milking machine, whereas 10% did not. Nevertheless, only 36.7% farmers knew the phase of pulsation and agreed that milking machine might be related to increase milk somatic cell count and cause teat injuries. The milking parlor sizing and its components were incorrect planned in 53.3% of farms, which can lead to lower milking efficiency. Vacuum pump capacity were known for just 10% of farmers, although 26.6% of them were aware about potential risk when the vacuum pump capacity is underestimated. Half of farmers answered that will keep the annual milk production in the next five years, whereas 46.6% wants to increase and just 3.3% will reduce or stop the activity. All the farmers interviewed were able to pay for milking machine diagnostic and preventive maintenance. The actors involved in milk production system (farmers and technicians) need stronger perception about milking machine and its detrimental role to ensure udder health, cow production, milking time and costs involved with lack or delay preventive maintenance calendar.

Keywords: Interviews, milk quality, parlor, preventive maintenance

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