

MINNAPOLIS

# Faster MILKING

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
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APR 13 1953  
AGRICULTURE



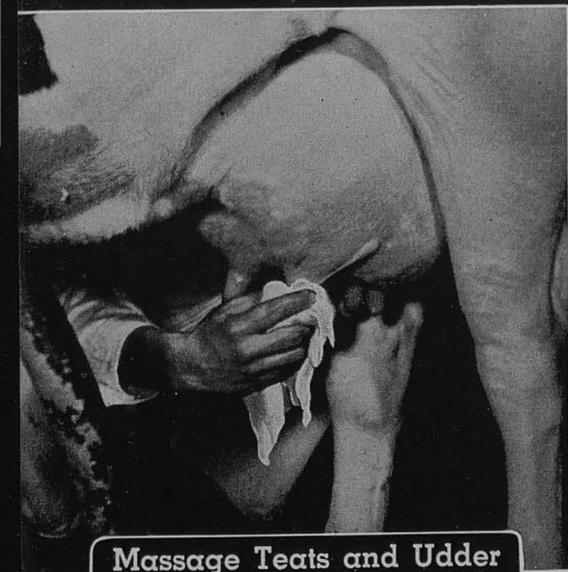
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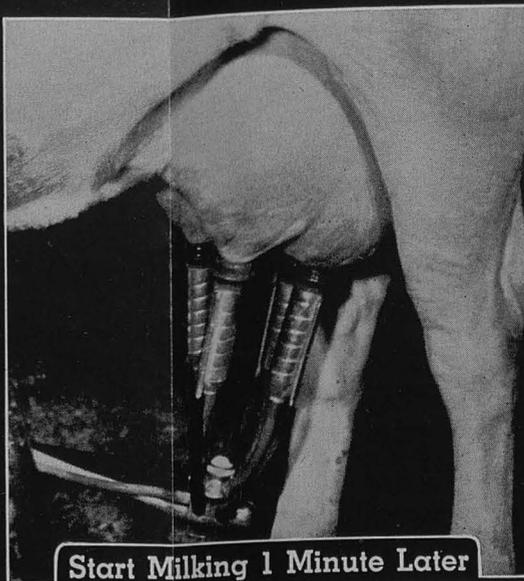
*Get the  
Cow Ready*

# Cut Your Milking Time in Half

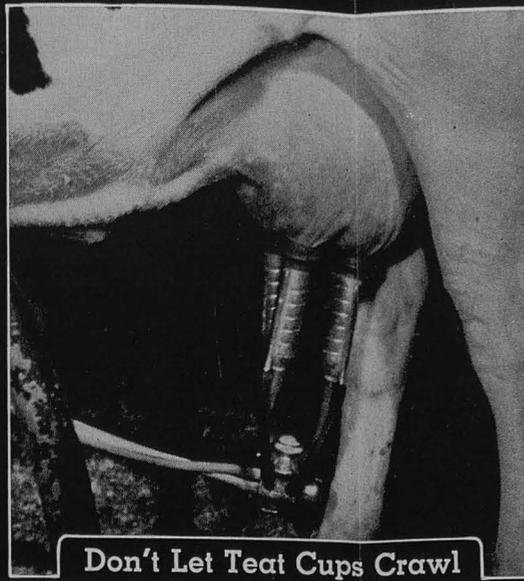
*Strip by  
Machine*



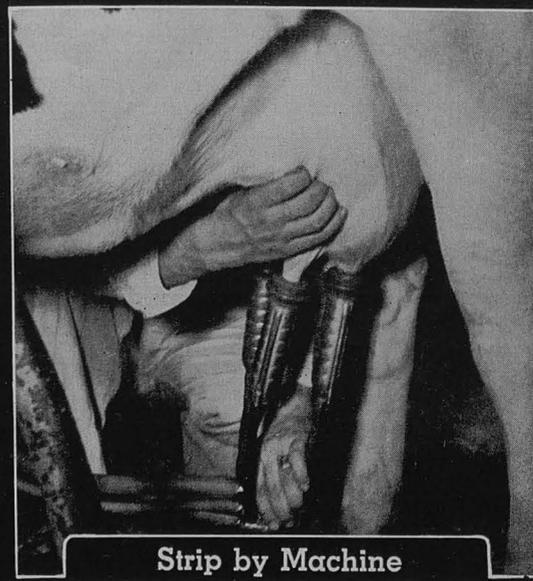
Massage Teats and Udder



Start Milking 1 Minute Later



Don't Let Teat Cups Crawl



Strip by Machine

**C**OWS MUST BE properly stimulated if they are to let down their milk freely and completely. Ordinarily the milk stays in the tiny cells where it is made until some means of stimulation, such as washing the udder or the act of milking, causes a muscular contraction which squeezes the milk down into the cisterns and teats.

**I**T NORMALLY TAKES a cow 45 seconds to let down her milk. Starting the machine one minute after stimulation shortens the time the machine must work to get out the milk. More important, there is less danger of injury to teats and udder if the machine works only while the milk flows freely.

**A**S MILKING progresses, the lower part of the udder becomes soft and flabby, offers less resistance to the tugging action of the machine. Teat cups crawl up on these soft tissues and shut off the milk ducts leading into the teats. When this happens, the last milk in the udder cannot get through. Incomplete milking results.

**W**HEN TEAT CUPS crawl, pull them down part way, using the free hand to massage the udder. The pinching off action stops, the milk ducts open, and the rest of the milk can be taken out by machine. Take the machine off as soon as the milk ceases to flow. Leaving it on invites injury which may lead to mastitis.

Many cows will milk in 2½ minutes by machine, and with few exceptions 3½ minutes will be the longest time required

Injury can be avoided if the machine operates only while the milk flows freely

## **Shift to Faster Milking**

Regularity in time and habit is essential to satisfactory milking by any method and is especially important for fast milking. Dairymen who have changed over have found that faster milking gives just as much milk and is better for the cow. Most cows can be changed over to faster milking with little or no loss in milk flow. There may be a temporary drop in production when the change is made, but milk flow will be normal within a few days.

## **Milk the Problem Cows Last**

In nearly every herd there are cows that let down their milk slowly, particularly in advanced lactation. Shifting these problem cows to the end of the line and milking them last makes it possible to milk the rest of the herd rapidly and with few delays.

Many dairymen follow this practice of milking the easy milkers first, leaving the problem cows to be milked last. Cows showing signs of mastitis should always be milked last to prevent spreading the infection to healthy cows. The most successful dairymen use a strip cup before milking to discover stringy or flaky milk, usually the first warning that mastitis may be present.

## **Speeding Up Hand Milking**

Hand milking itself provides the kind of stimulation necessary to make the cow let down her milk. However, the time required for hand milking would be reduced if this stimulation could be given a little before milking begins. To speed up hand milking, therefore, begin one minute before milking to stimulate the cow by some means such as washing the udder.

## Rules for Faster Milking

Here are a few simple rules to assure the success of faster milking. Unless these steps become regular habits at milking time, the change-over may result in lost time and lowered milk production.

1. **Stimulate the cows to let down their milk one minute before putting on the machine.**
2. **Operate milking machine according to manufacturer's directions**  
.....increasing vacuum or altering pulsations may make milking unpleasant.
3. **Strip the cows by machine**  
.....commence stripping as soon as teat cups start to crawl.
4. **Do not leave the machine on the cow after milk stops flowing.**

### OTHER DAIRY BULLETINS

Ask your county agent or write to University Farm, St. Paul, for these free bulletins:

Extension Bulletin 218—Feeding the Dairy Herd

Extension Folder 175—Don't Gamble with Mastitis

Extension Folder 146—Loose Housing for Dairy Cattle

Extension Folder 160—Your Dairy Calf—Feeding and Care

Extension Pamphlet 182—Wipe Out Brucellosis in Cattle

Extension Folder 119

Reprinted February 1953

UNIVERSITY FARM, ST. PAUL 1, MINNESOTA

Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, University of Minnesota, Agricultural Extension Service and United States Department of Agriculture  
Cooperating: Paul E. Miller, Director

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Published in furts of May 8 and  
15M-1-53



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