



East Africa Dairy Development

In partnership with



# Milk handling and mastitis control

Good Agricultural Practices

# Mastitis and its major causes

- Mastitis is an inflammation of the mammary glands caused by bacteria which can end up in the milk
- Unhygienic environment
- Poor milking practices –Cross infections
- Hereditary cases



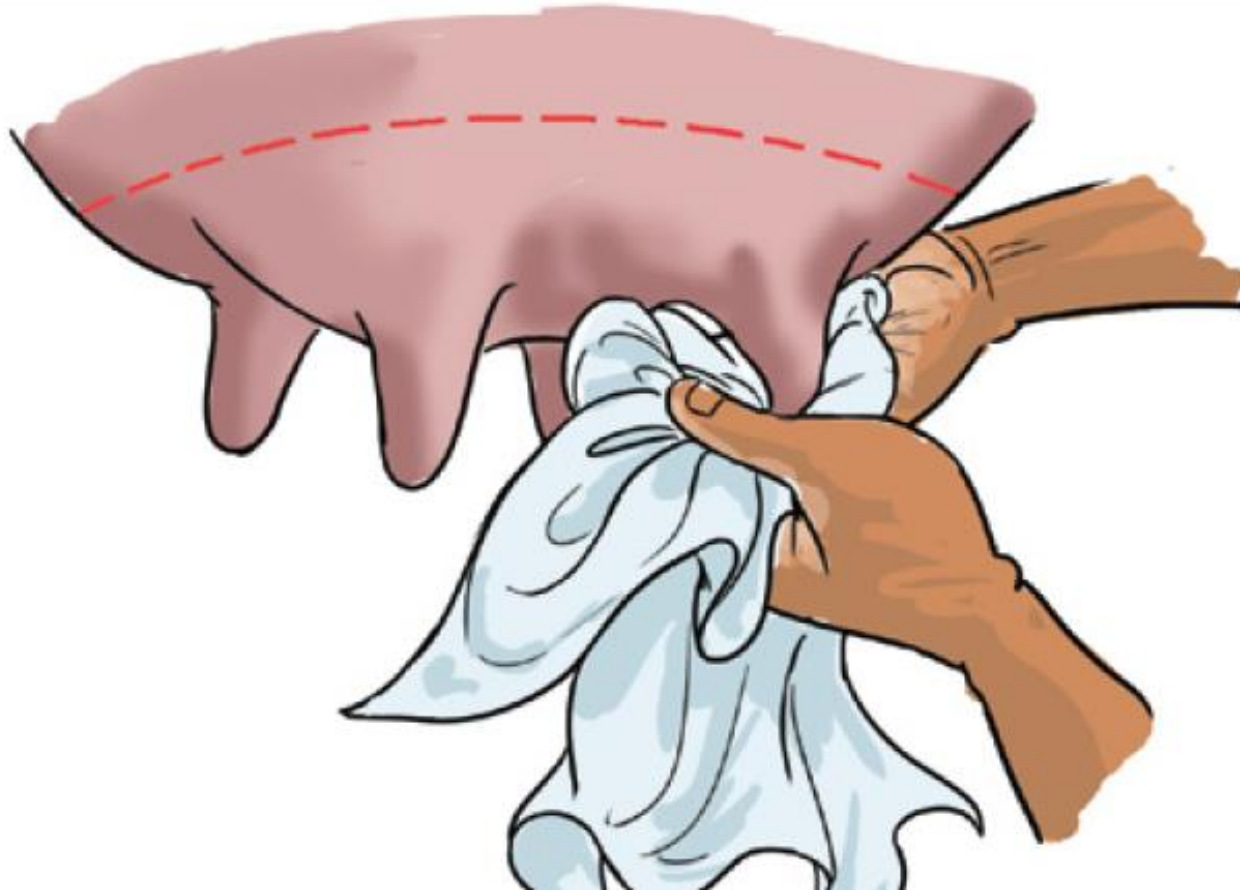
- Wash hands with soap and clean water before milking
- Dry hands with towel



- Moisten and rinse a clean cloth in warm water



- Clean the udder and the teats with the rinsed cloth



- Dry them with a dry cloth





- Test for mastitis , strip first few rays of milk into a strip cup from every quarter and observe for any abnormalities
- Milk each quarter individually with a strip ( clots, Blood, thick yellow)
- If mastitis is detected the cow should be milked last, milk discarded
- Sub clinical mastitis- not easily detected
- Do not allow animals to rest immediately after milking when teats are still open



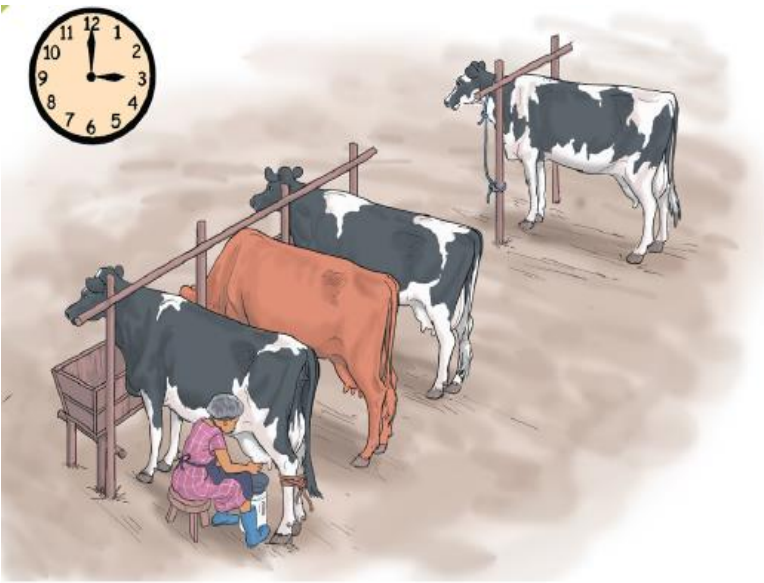
- Milkers should wear protective clothing such as overall, gumboots, head gear,
- Wash hands with antiseptic soap
- Always use food grade containers i.e. aluminium or stainless steel since these are easy to clean.



- Never store milk in plastic jerry cans that previously contained paint , herbicides or other chemicals.
- Use safe cleaning and sanitization detergents- scrub with warm water and detergent
- Rinse in clean running water
- Dip rinse in boiling water for at least one minute
- Air –dry the container in inverted position on a clean rack in the open



- Keep the milking area clean, Make sure you have enough cleaning water
- The floor should be made smooth ie have a concrete floor or hard mud for easy cleaning- dung and feed leftovers



- Maintain your milking schedule
- Use skilled milkers
- Carry out a health check up for your animals regularly, care should be taken for new purchases to avoid infections
- Report any milk abnormalities to the veterinary health workers
- Observe the time for milking between 5-10 minutes depending on the milk yield, never interrupt milking process
- Keep proper production records