



Opportunities in “Near Misses” on your Farm

A near miss is a close call—an event that nearly caused injury, damage, or harm but did not. These are warning signs that deserve attention. Examples include a worker slipping on a wet floor without falling, or a bale of straw falling near someone.

Encourage staff to report near misses without fear. Thank them and share incidents (anonymously if needed) at safety meetings to raise awareness.

Use near misses as a learning tool. Talk about what happened, gather input on prevention, and act quickly to correct hazards. Reporting “near misses” prevents future accidents

Read the full article to see how these “Near Misses” can strengthen your farm’s safety program.

Scan the QR code or visit:

<https://go.wisc.edu/BN25083>



Calm Cows, Better Milking

Cows are creatures of habit. They feel more comfortable when their environment is calm and predictable—especially during milking. Gentle handling and clear routines help cows feel safe, which encourages the release of oxytocin, the hormone that triggers milk letdown.

Stress, loud noises, or rough handling can block oxytocin and slow down the milking process. Calm and consistent handling—before and during milking—is one of the easiest and most effective ways to improve both cow comfort and parlor performance. It helps cows release milk completely and reduces the time machines are attached.

Every person in the parlor plays a role. Minor changes in behavior can lead to big improvements in milking efficiency and udder health.



Do this:

- Handle cows quietly and patiently
- Follow the same routine each day
- Prepare teats properly before milking
- Keep the parlor calm—avoid yelling or sudden movements
- Train new workers in low-stress handling



Avoid this:

- Rushing or rough handling
- Loud music or yelling
- Skipping or rushing teat prep
- Making cows feel stressed or afraid

Read the full article to learn how simple handling changes can improve milk flow, parlor efficiency, and make work easier for everyone.

Visit <https://go.wisc.edu/BN25081>

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WALKING STRONG

Footbaths are the key tool for managing digital dermatitis (DD) in dairy herds—not a cure, but an effective preventive measure.

The effectiveness of footbaths in preventing infectious lesions is dependent upon a number of factors including footbath solution, frequency of changing solutions, footbath dimensions, footbath placement, and animal hygiene.

Use fresh solutions, detect and treat lesions before footbath use, and tailor frequency—3× weekly during outbreaks, with maintenance routines afterward.

Consider safety protocols, follow farm protocols, and consult your herd veterinarian. These practices enhance herd health, reduce treatment costs, and improve overall animal well-being.

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SAFETY FIRST

Protect yourself – Needlestick prevention

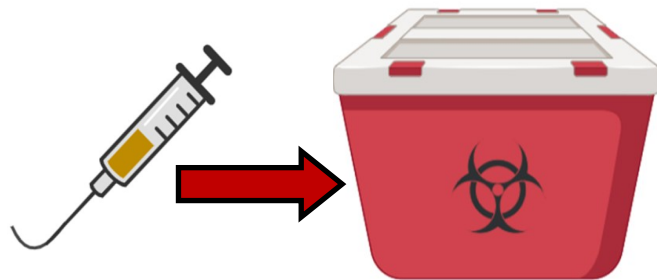
Unfortunately, many dairy farm workers experience accidental needle sticks while administering veterinary products to cows.

To prevent this:

- Slow down when giving injections. Do not be in a hurry.
- Properly restrain animals and ask for help if needed
- Never put needles in your pockets or hold needle caps in your mouth.
- Discard used, dull, bent needles in approved sharps containers.

If you get stuck:

- ⇒ Wash immediately with soap and water
- ⇒ Report to your supervisor
- ⇒ See a doctor if pain develops (bring product label)
- ⇒ Ensure current tetanus immunization.



ACROSS THE FENCE

Teat Plugs for Three-Quarter Cows

Teat plugs are used to block unused teat cups when milking three-quarter cows. This helps maintain a steady vacuum and prevents accidental suction of dirt. When not in use, store the plugs in a clean disinfectant solution.



WHAT IS FARM?



It's a program that help farmers demonstrate their commitment to produce high quality and safe milk with integrity.