

CLUSTERS OFF, DIP-ON

CID LINES
Believe in hygiene!

In last month's issue of the magazine, we focused specifically on post-milking Chlorine Dioxide-based teat dip products. We looked at the specific features of this active ingredient as well as the wider needs of a post-milking application compared to those of a pre-milking product. This month, we will be looking at the more familiar types of teat dips and sprays that are available in the UK.

Aside from Chlorine Dioxide, the key active ingredients used in post-milking products are:

- Iodine
- Chlorhexidine
- Lactic Acid

IODINE

Iodine is probably the most common post dip active ingredient used in the UK and is familiar to most farms, having been used as both dip and spray in all types of parlour. Iodine is a very effective germicide which works by oxidising bacteria cell contents and is well proven through clinical trials and on-farm use. Selecting an appropriate iodine-based product is crucial and it is very much a case of getting what you pay for because some iodine can be less stable, often resulting in reduced efficacy in-use. To counter this, very high levels of iodine are sometimes used (often >5,000ppm). Higher iodine levels can be aggressive on teats so to counteract this, more emollients are added to avoid deteriorating teat skin condition. Unfortunately, these higher emollient levels reduce the efficacy of the available iodine, resulting in a vicious circle and a compromised product.

Higher specification "complex" iodine's are far less compromised, often with optimal levels of iodine (typically around 3,000ppm) and with the right levels of emollients, to work in synergy with the active ingredient. Well-balanced iodine products should therefore provide all of the germicidal features necessary to sanitize teats, alongside maintaining and improving teat condition.

CHLORHEXIDINE

Chlorhexidine is probably the second most popular active ingredient in use in the UK and has a mode of action that disrupts bacteria cells by damaging their cell membrane. It has two key properties. Firstly, it is non-irritating which has a positive effect on teat condition. Secondly, it has a strong residual effect, resulting in an extended period of kill after the teats are dipped which is crucial to ensure teats are protected between milking's. Chlorhexidine dips are generally pH neutral so again are favourable in situations where maintenance of teat condition is important or where current skin condition needs to be improved.

LACTIC ACID

Lactic acid-based teat dips are possibly the least-used on UK farms, however they are well known for some key features that bring measurable benefits to dairy cows. Firstly, Lactic acid is an extremely fast-acting, broad spectrum germicide. This means that it acts quickly to kill the bacteria that might infect the teat. It is also highly effective on viruses. Secondly, despite being an acid, in the correct product formulation, lactic acid is non-aggressive to teats.

CID LINES POST-DIP, FARMER EXPERIENCE

The CID LINES Range of Teat Sprays and Dips

CID Lines produce a full range of pre-and post-dips for the UK market and includes individual products that each contain one of the four key active ingredients.

- Chlorine Dioxide (**Kenomix**) – Explained in detail in the last issue
- **Kenocidin** VMR registered, high viscosity, chlorhexidine-based dip & spray with Menthae arvensis
- **Kenostart** VMR registered, high viscosity, complex (pH neutral) iodine dip & spray with optimised emollient levels
- **Kenolac** Lactic acid dip & spray with fly repellent and sunscreen



The Aylesbury family farm 240 cows at Bollow Farm near Frome, Somerset. In 2016 they invested in a new parlour, moving to a new 28:28 set-up but despite having a brand-new system, there were initial problems with cell counts which were costing money each month. Mike commented:



"We had a veterinary audit carried out recently which highlighted a few issues and these were acted upon immediately. On the advice of our dairy hygiene specialist we also changed our pre-milking preparation from using udder clothes to using a foaming pre-dip. We'd occasionally used foaming dip cups, but we found them fiddly and were afraid some cows were not being adequately treated"

They decided to install the CID LINES Purefoaming system

using Keno™pure which made it easy for the team to pre-foam easily and helping with milk hygiene. The next area to look at was in post-dip so having been happy with Kenopure, they wanted to look at a compatible product from the CID LINES range.

"We spoke to Pearce Dairy who had installed the PureFoamer system and they recommended Kenocidin SD. It's a Chlorhexidine based product with emollients and mint. We use it through a spray line and get great results because we take the time to spray well, covering the whole teat."

Mike added:

"Kenocidin is helping us to maintain cell counts at very low levels. The product covers the teats completely and we can see it forming a pooled drop on the teat end to protect it from bacteria entering. Teat condition is fantastic and crucially it's still there at the next milking, giving us the confidence that it's covering between milking's.

The advice from our veterinary audit, plus using the PureFoamer with Kenopure before milking followed up by Kenocidin post-milking, is a system that's really working for us.

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