

# SCORING OF TEAT CONDITION

## (Level 1)

Topic	Training & information Content
7.1	Instructions hand milking techno & hygiene
7.2	Instructions machine milking good practise & ...
7.3	Problems during milking
7.4	Scoring of teat condition
7.5	Milk production recording
7.6	Calculation of costs hand vs machine milking
7.7	Which milking parlour to choose
7.8	Testing and maintenance of milking machines
7.9	Milking and cleaning routine in milking parlours
7.10	Storage and cooling of milk on farm



## 1. You will learn about (learning objectives):

- Why the udder and teats should be kept clean.
- Scoring teat condition.



## 2. Background

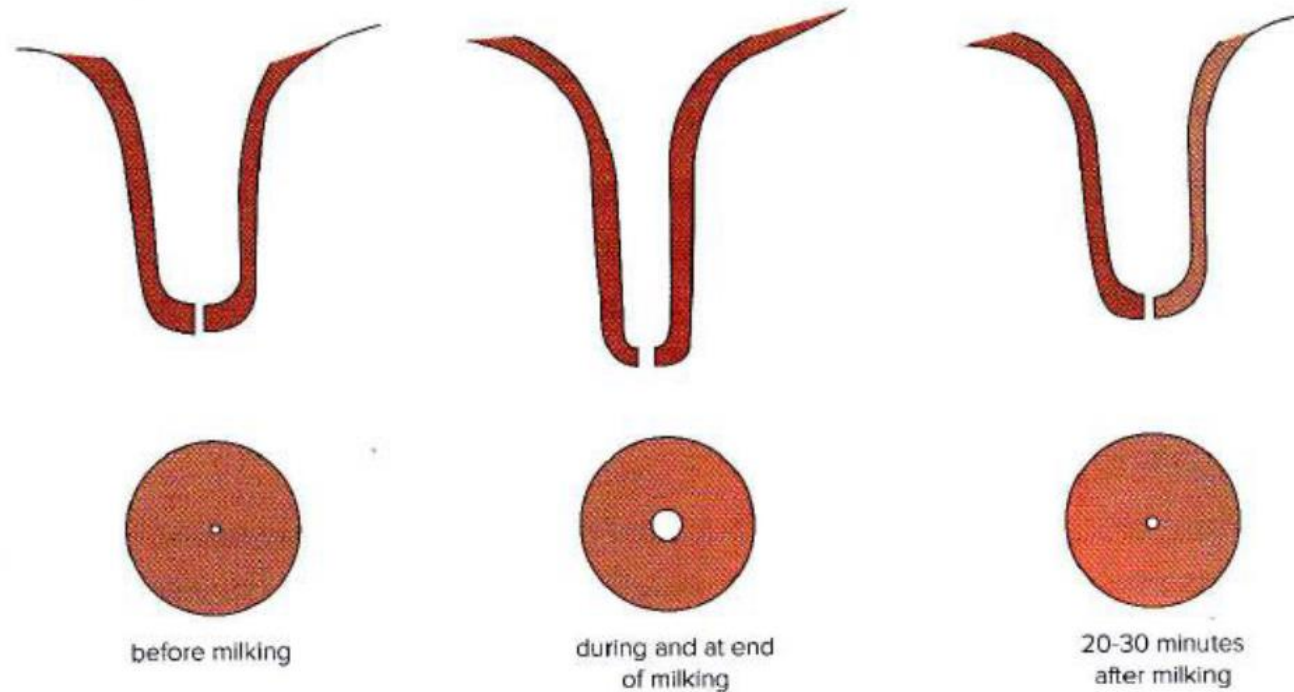
Why is it important to have healthy teats?

- Unhealthy teats (wounds, dryness, scars) are:
  - Hard to keep clean
  - Uncomfortable for the cow
  - **More at risk of mastitis**



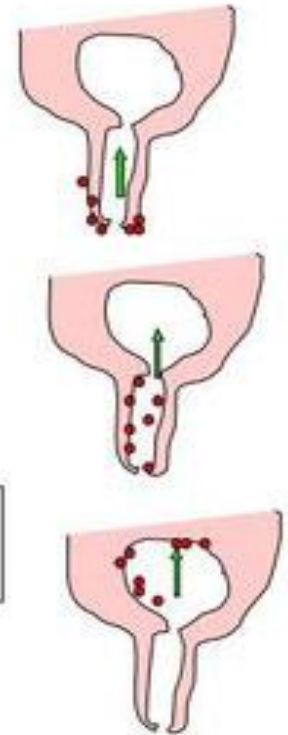
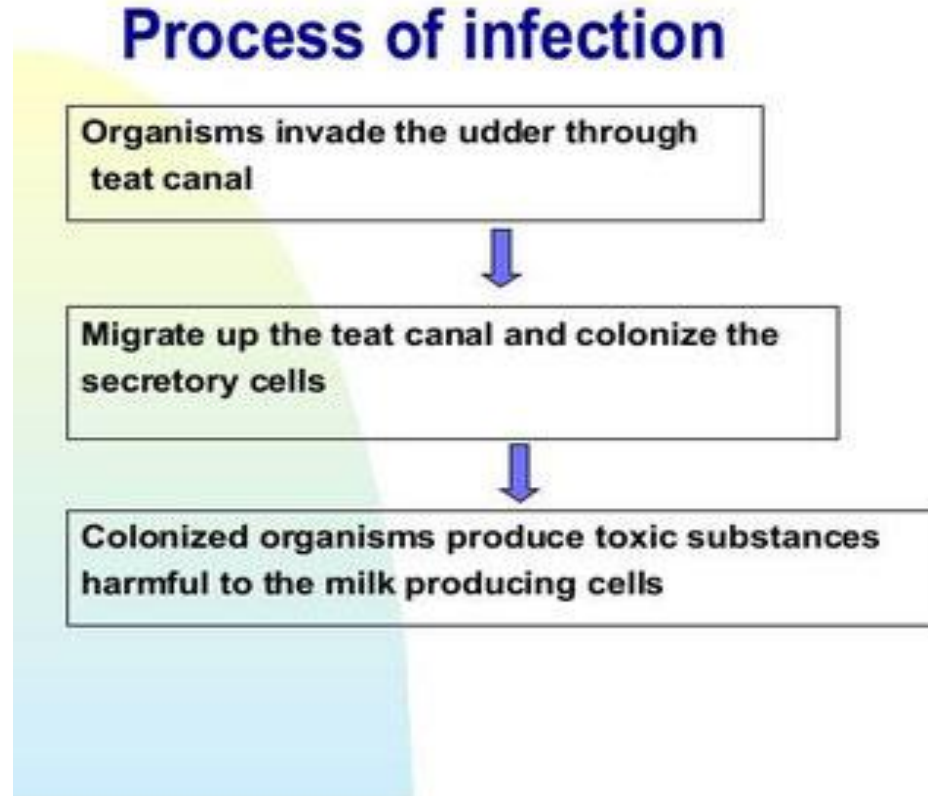
### 3. Why the teat should stay clean

- After milking the teat hole needs another 30 minutes to heal/close, so bacteria still has the chance to enter the teat canal.



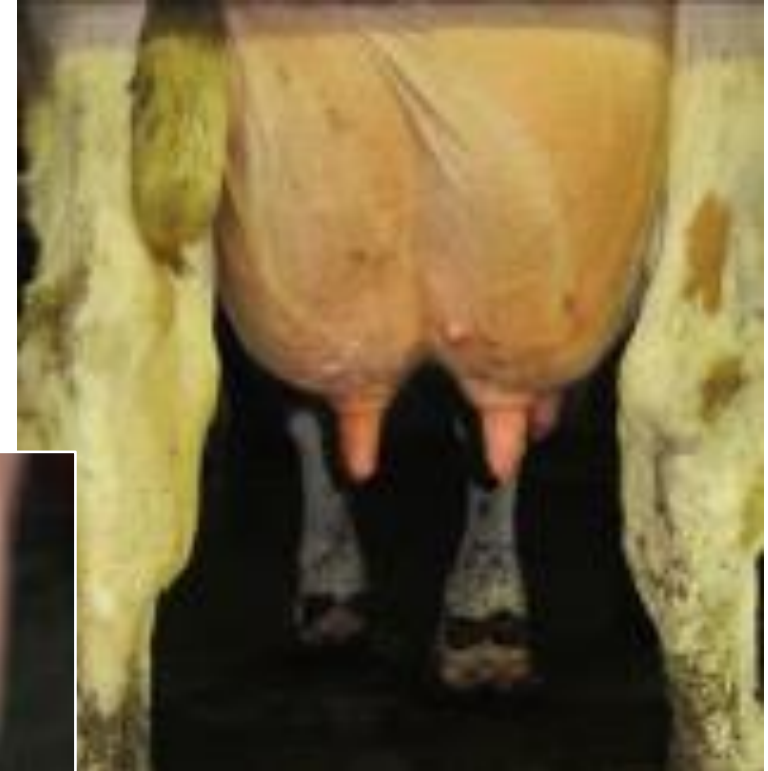
## 4. Hygiene keeps udder and teats clean

- The udder and teat condition, as well as the hygiene during the milking process need to be optimal – can have influence on the cow. This will prevent bacteria from entering the teat canal and cause infection.



## 5. Scoring of teat condition

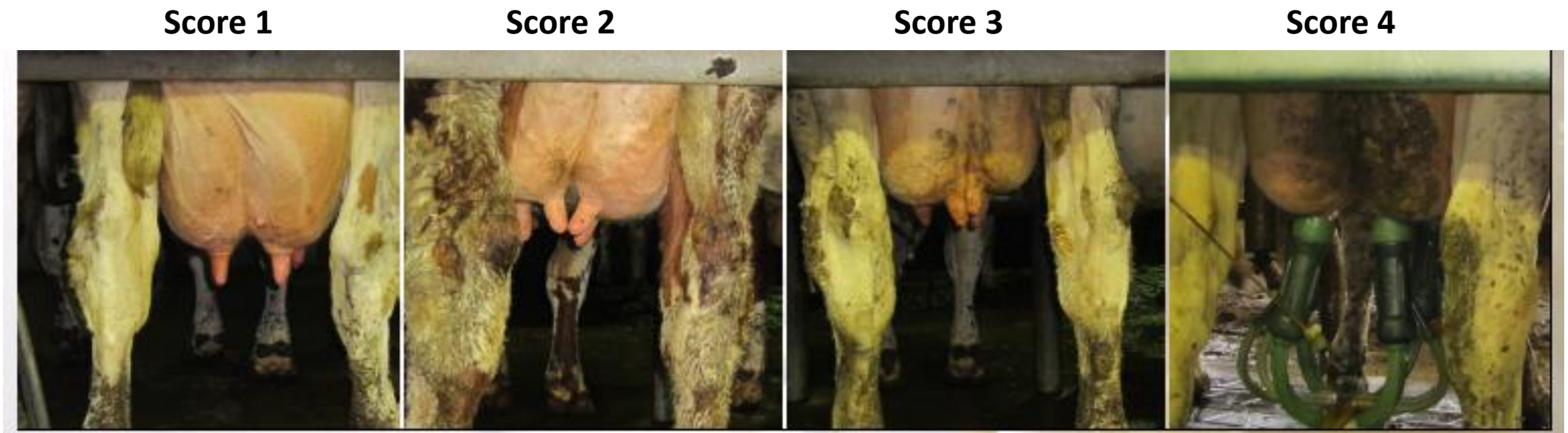
- Scoring teat condition can be divided into four (4) components:
  - i. Udder condition
  - ii. Skin condition of the teats
  - iii. Teat end → teat hole
  - iv. Teat length





## 6. Udder condition/hygiene

- Clean udder prevent infections.



Score 1

Score 2

Score 3

Score 4

Clean



Dirty

Score 1 - 2



Score 3 - 4



## 6.1 Causes of dirty udders and how to improve

- Clean and dry environments prevent infections.





## 7. Teat skin condition

- A bad skin condition is painful and can attract bacteria.

Score 1



Damaged

Score 2



Score 3



Score 4



Score 5



Smooth skin

Score 1 - 2



Score 3 - 4 - 5

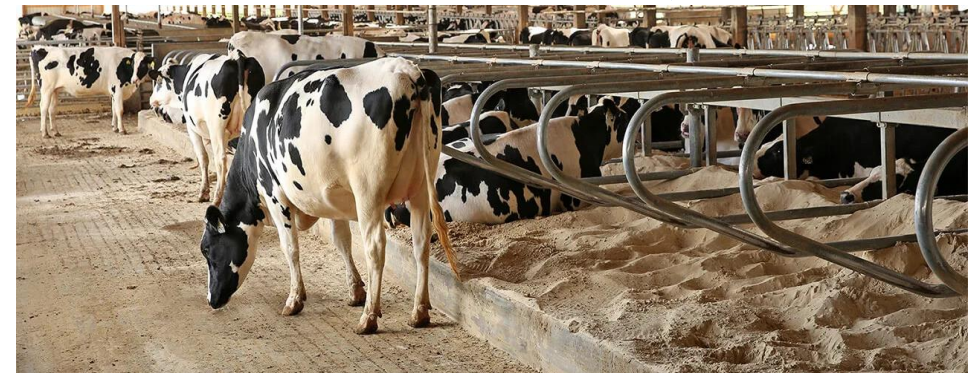


## 7.1 Causes of bad skin condition and how to improve

- Cows need to have enough space.



- Bedding materials need to be soft.



## 8. Teat hole

- A damaged teat hole is very cannot close they way it should, so is easily infected by bacteria.

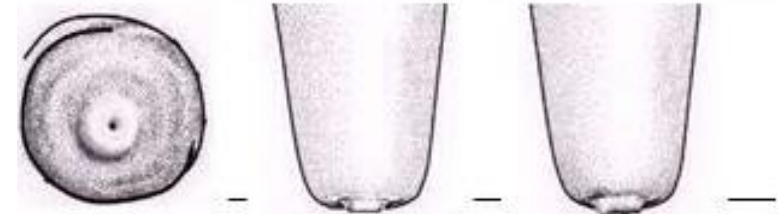


Score 1 - 2

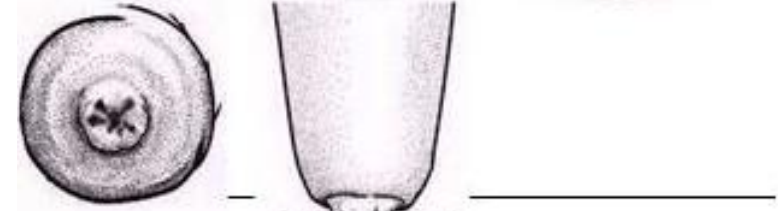
**Score 1** No ring



**Score 2** Smooth or slightly rough ring

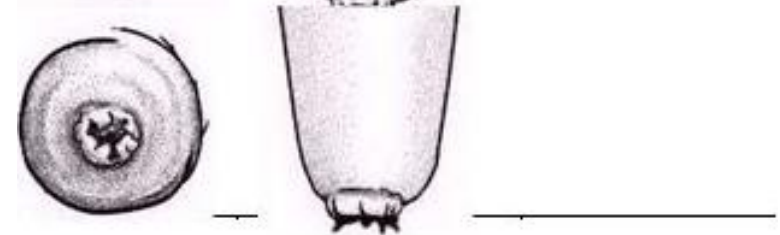


**Score 3** Rough ring



**Score 3 - 4**

**Score 4** Very rough ring



## 8.1 Causes of bad teat hole and how to improve Cont'd...

- Prevent blind milking when using machine milking.





## 9. Teat condition scoring plan

### The plan for scoring teat condition

1. Randomly select 20% or at least 20 cows of the herd.
2. Score the cows for each subject/parameter (udder hygiene, teat skin and teat hole). Using a flashlight will make it easier to see.

Udder hygiene	Score 1 – 2 – 3 – 4
Teat skin condition	Score 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5
Teat sphyncter condition	Score 1 – 2 – 3 – 4

3. Make sure you score the udders and teats the same way and under the same circumstances.



## 10. Take home messages/Summary

### Conclusion:

Healthy teats are essential in order to prevent mastitis or other infections, and are comfortable for the cow.

In order to optimize the teat condition of dairy cows, it is important to have:

- A clean and comfortable environment
- A good climate
- Good working milking equipment
- Optimal milking routine
- Optimal hygiene.

