



Stress-free farm life with healthy cows

Staffan and Martina Bäcketoft run an organic dairy operation, called Bäckeby Farm, located in the south of Sweden. In order to increase labour efficiency as well as improving the lives and the health of their 200 cows, the Bäcketofts decided to switch from conventional to automated milking.

Their good experiences with GEA's herringbone milking parlour led the farm owners to choose GEA's DairyRobot R9500 as the ideal next step in modernising their farm's milking technology. Staffan sees the greatest benefit in saved time that he can invest in important animal care instead of spending many hours a day milking conventionally. His day begins with a glance at all the information generated by the three automated milking boxes around the clock. In particular, the milk alarms notify him of marked changes in milk quantity, conductivity or milk temperature in any cow down to the quarter level.

Thanks to the system's timely and precise alerts, Staffan can now treat his cows quickly in a targeted way preventing slumps in yield and reducing disease progression. The best proof of the herd's improved constitution is the cell count numbers which dropped from 250,000 to 140,000. The cows' good health pays off immediately: their milk commands a higher price at the dairy.

While cows previously had to be fetched for fixed milking times, now every cow in the barn goes to the spacious milking robot independently and waits until the wide gate opens. Via a responder, the milking robot checks if the cow is ready to be milked. Subsequently the MilkRack moves into position, and then attaches the teat cups. With GEA's DairyRobot R9500, milking is carried out peacefully according to the In-Liner Everything principle. From stimulating to cleaning all the way to emptying the udder, the whole milking routine takes place in the protected environment of the teat cup. Finally, a dipping fluid is applied carefully and dosed optimally to each teat. This protects the teat's sensitive skin and the still-open teat canal from germs and bacteria for the next hours in the barn.

Modernising production has fundamentally improved life, working conditions and animal welfare at the Bäckeby Farm. Life in the barn is calm and relaxed, the cows eat, rest and move around according to their own rhythm and go to be milked without stress. Physically demanding, fixed milking times are a thing of the past.





New GEA concentrates and mixers support sustainable dairy farming

New Concentrated Teat Dips supports GEA's strategy of Next Generation Farming for more sustainability, animal welfare and flexibility.

Mastitis, whether it is from contagious or environmental pathogens, remains the most common and expensive disease on a dairy farm. Losses from mastitis are higher than losses from infertility and reproductive disease, so to keep mastitis under control is a recurring concern from farmers all around the world.

Dairies are getting bigger, and the consumption of chemicals is exponentially increasing. For these farms to handle ready-to-use (RTU) products can become a huge operation as they need to invest a lot of time and manpower ordering these products, managing inventories, committing large areas for storage, and putting a proper end to all the empty canisters.

GEA Concentrates contain the same active ingredients as the ready-to-use (RTU) products, with the difference that they carry far less water in their formulations. This small difference can help farmers to produce milk in a more economical and sustainable way. To make the ready to use product directly on farm, GEA has developed innovative mixer technologies which make the concentrate blending process very consistent, and easy to manage. Furthermore, the new GEA Concentrates and mixers allow farmers to custom blend teat dips, combining active ingredients and skin conditioners to create exactly the dip which is needed for that day. It allows producers to minimise mastitis cases even more effectively and optimise milk production, precisely matching teat dips to the different types of pathogens, weather conditions and other needs of their herd.

Costs are also positively impacted: farmers only mix the dips in the quantities they currently need, thus reducing their annual costs compared to RTU products. With GEA Concentrates fewer plastic drums are in use, meaning more free space in the barn, less work regarding handling and disposing, and less transportation costs, contributing to lower CO₂ emissions.

There is a GEA teat dip for every situation that a dairy producer may encounter. Our Specialists match the best teat dip options with each farmer's needs and future goals.

GEA Concentrates present a cost-saving and environmentally friendly solution that enables farmers to optimise their footprint, contribute towards sustainability and fight against mastitis.