Back flushing on milking machine teat cups

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The possibility of replacing the dipping of teat cups between cows with a system of back flushing with water has been investigated for some time by different workers.

After removal of milk deposits the essential function of dipping is to sanitise in an attempt to minimise the spread of mastitis infection. Whilst dipping is useful, by comparison there is reason to believe that back flushing will be more effective and economical.

Back flushing introduces water at some point above the claw with a view to thoroughly rinsing milk solids away, and at the same time removing a large percentage of the contaminating bacteria.

One of the authors (Scott), designed a modification for the claw—shown in the figure—which enables the use of a third line carrying water to flush the claw. At Wokalup Research Station and in the Dairy Laboratory in Perth it was found that a five-second flush reduces the bacterial contamination by 99.3 per cent.

The system has not had enough practical use to be recommended as a general procedure to dairy farmers. The results to date are encouraging and the modification has been installed in the dairy at the Wokalup Research Station for a period of observation.
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