



November, 2013.

To our Valued Customers;

In a continuing effort to provide you with the best traction on your barn floors and information on maintaining a safe environment for your livestock, it has come to our attention there is a common practice in the dairy industry that may be compromising any methods you may have taken to improve traction to reduce injury.

Unlike sand bedding and heavy scraping with a steel bucket that wears down the concrete, it has been found that the use of hydrated lime on the cow-beds results in the "filling in" of whatever texture, imprint or grooving you may currently have in your concrete floors.

A simple test can be done to see if there is an issue with lime build-up on your floors.

1. Wash off several areas of your scrape alleys and look for a grey discoloration. It will be more prevalent in lower areas where liquid may accumulate and lay.
2. Lightly dry several spots in those areas with a propane torch. If the floors are bare concrete, very little change will be noticed. If the floors have become clogged with lime residue, a white puffiness will appear that looks like powder but is as hard as rock and will be difficult to scrape off even with a screwdriver



In the ongoing battle against mastitis, the spreading of lime on the cow-beds is a practice that works well in tie-stall barns with minimal risk of affecting the floors. However, in the modern free-stall dairy facility, there is a major trade off of solving one problem and creating another.

We just want you to be aware of this trade off.

For a more cost effective way of disinfecting your cow-beds, ask your Veterinarian about using a 1% solution of Virkon sprayed on several times a week instead of spreading lime.

We at AGRI-TRAC are also researching other items that may be effective as drying agents instead of lime that will not create the mineral build up on the concrete floors. We will keep you informed on our findings.

For more information on this subject, please call our office or visit our website and look under "Lime Residue on Floors."

Sincerely,

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