

Tip of the Month – February 2017

Manure plate

The manure plate in the VMS is a crucial component of the system. Not only does it make sure that the VMS's floor stays clean because it drains urine and manure which keeps the box cleaner, but is also an important indicator to track a cow's movements to ensure the system attaches the teats more easily.

Note that the cow should stand against the manure plate to ensure it moves with it. Also make sure that the cow does not have too much or too little space. This way, you know for sure that the manure plate gives the VMS arm accurate information.

The manure plate rests on the dirtiest and most vulnerable spot of the VMS. It moves close to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There's a chance that the plate does not work properly by following the movements of the cow which in return yields inaccurate information.

You can spot this when the cow pee's. You'll notice that the manure plate does not fall (quick enough) forward. Often, the spring is worn out or stretched out. There's also the possibility that the rod is bent, or too dirty, or plate too dirty.

There are also farms that have a bin around the manure plate, which is very clean and tidy, but you do not see if manure plate moves correctly. It is very important then to check regularly!