Two Milk Quality Management Tools

Parlor Watch 305

One system, three functions

The "Parlor Watch 305" parlor monitoring system tracks three critical dairy farm functions - herd production, milking system cleaning, and the milking routine. Monitoring critical functions every milking means a problem can be detected soon after it begins. Early detection is the first step towards minimizing losses.

Matt Beckerink, Findley Lake, New York, uses Parlor Watch with Dairy Comp 305 to manage his 850 cows. He is quick to volunteer that he would not want to be without it for managing his herd and controlling the quality of his milk. "Just last week one of my two water heaters, flamed out, and we picked it up right away, when we noticed the temperature on the wash was 10 degrees lower than typical".

"I originally bought Parlor Watch thinking about tracking my groups' production - like the fresh cows, but I think we rely on it more for controlling our milk quality than any other single use." Every milking they track the temperature of the milk coming out of the pre-cooler, the wash run time, volume, and the wash cycle temperatures.

How does Parlor Watch Work?

- A stainless steel flow meter is installed in the milk line between the receiver and the pre-cooler.
- A temperature probe is attached to outflow of the pre-cooler.
- The meter and the probe are attached to a PC that runs Dairy Comp 305 and the Parlor Watch software.

Summary

- Parlor Watch records the duration and temperature of each of the milking system's cleaning cycles.
- Parlor Watch tracks production changes by group every milking.
- Parlor Watch creates an unbiased record of the milking staff's performance for each milking.

The example report below demonstrates how you can closely monitor herd production, milking system cleaning, and the milking routine every milking, every day.

Example Parlor Watch 305 Report

Milking Number 1 for 10/02/2006

Pen	Total Milk	Milk /Hr	Milk /Cow	Cows	Cows /Hr	Total Time	Start Time	Stop Time	Pen Gap	Max Temp	Pen Dev
1	2862	2094	33	86	63	1:22	4:28	5:50	0	59	0
2	2425	2109	27	89	77	1:09	5:57	7:06	7	57	-2
3	2542	2311	28	91	83	1:06	7:13	8:19	7	56	1
4	1936	1969	22	87	88	0:59	8:26	9:25	7	56	0
9	259	3885	32	8	120	0:04	9:26	9:30	1	55	-2
5	1548	1206	18	88	69	1:17	9:31	10:48	1	56	0
6	863	1363	23	38	60	0:38	11:00	11:38	12	55	-1
Total	12435	1735	26	487	68	7:10	4:28	11:38			

Washup Phase	Total Flow	Total Time	Start Time	Stop Time	Min Time	Max Time
	280	0:04	11:49	11:53	79	103
	1648	0:13	12:05	12:18	95	119
	973	0:12	12:27	12:39	87	97
Total	2901	0:50	11:49	12:39		

Definitions for the headings across the top of the milking report

Pen	Group or "pen" of animals.
Total Milk	Total milk harvested.
Milk/Hr	Milk harvested per hour.
Milk/Cow	Milk per cow harvested.
Cows	Total number of animals in this pen.
Cows/Hr	Number of animals milked per hour.
Total Time	Total time it took to milk each the group.
Start Time	Time the pen of animals was started.
Stop Time	Time the pen of animals was finished.
Pen Gap	The interval between finishing one group and starting the next.
Max Temp	The maximum temperature the milk reached as it exited the plate cooler.
Pen Dev	The pounds of milk per cow variation from the rolling average for this group of animals, this milking.

The "washup" report for this milking is divided into three phases: rinse, wash, and acid. Each milking parlor has its own specific operating ranges. This report indicates the first wash that a parlor falls short of its operating parameters.

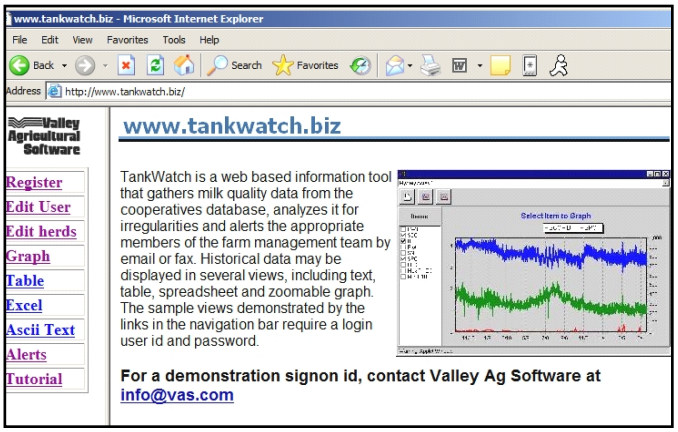
Wash Definitions:

Total Flow	Total pounds of water that circulated through the parlor for the rinse.
Total Time	The total time that phase lasted.
Start Time	The time each phase began.
Stop Time	The time each phase ended
Min Temp	The minimum temperature (in degrees) at the outflow of the plate cooler for each phase.
Max Temp	The maximum temperature (in degrees) of the outflow of the plate cooler for each phase.

Tank Watch

The Bulk Tank monitoring tool you've been waiting for.

With the increasing emphasis on milk quality, it is becoming more and more important to know as soon as possible when bulk tank test information falls outside of acceptable ranges. Valley Agricultural Software (VAS), the developers of Dairy Comp 305 and related products, have combined this interest in milk quality with current technology like cell phones and e-mail to provide you with immediate notification of your bulk tank results. Tank Watch is a web-based service that sends "alerts" that can be set at the level you want to tell you when you have exceeded the limits. Tank Watch also stores information and allows tracking and graphing of results over time.



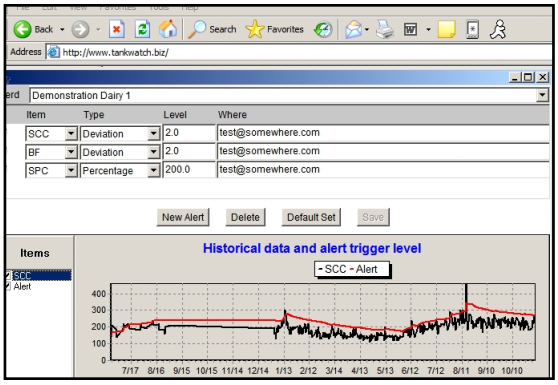
TankWatch is available to any member of Dairylea, DFA or their affiliated Cooperatives for $9.95 via monthly milk check deduction. Considering what high bacteria and Somatic Cell counts cost in lost milk and premiums, it makes sense to take advantage of such a useful and convenient tool. You can register through the website at www.tankwatch.biz, or contact Dairy One at 1.800.344.2697.

David Fisher of Mapleview Dairy LLC in Madrid, New York recently began using Tank Watch. "I like having the alerts sent to me through my e-mail", says Dave. "If I get an alert, it's a good reminder. It forces me to look at something that maybe I would not normally think to look at. There are so many things to do every day and keep track of, having this reminder is really helpful."

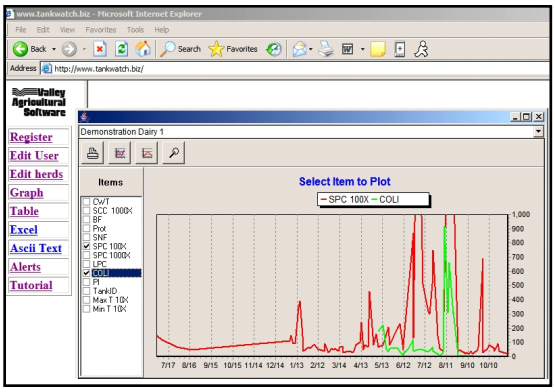
You can choose to receive your alert via fax, e-mail or cell phone, and you can set the level at which you want to be notified. In addition to the alerts, TankWatch accumulates results over time so you can monitor changes in equipment, procedure, staff or any other factors affecting milk quality.

The top portion of this screen shows the alerts that are set, the levels they are set at, and how the dairy would like to be notified.

The bottom portion shows how often alerts levels exceeded the acceptable level over the past 15 months.



In the graph at the bottom, one or more parameters can be graphed over time, or several parameters can be graphed against each other. This example shows SCC levels compared with those of e-coli.



Parlor watch and Tank Watch are just two of the many tools available, designed to identify small problems before they grow into large problems. How often have we been unaware of an issue developing only to have it erupt into lost milk, lost time, lost income, and lost opportunity to do something else. The single as well as cumulative affect can be staggering.

If you have any questions about Parlor Watch or Tank Watch, please contact the Dairy Management Resources group at 1.800.344.2697, extension 3 or e-mail dmr@dairyone.com.

We want to thank all Dairy One members for the opportunity to provide you with DHI records services as well as laboratory, and herd management services over the past year. ***Happy Holidays!***