



## OPERATING A BUCKET MILKER (Goats)

The following guidelines will assist the first time user in properly operating a pail type milker system.

*Operating a pail milker requires minimal training and minimal equipment knowledge, but does require proper equipment maintenance and the development of a special technique in applying the milking cluster as opposed to hand milking.*

1. Using the 1/2" vacuum hose supplied, connect the adapter on the bucket lid to the vacuum system.
2. The vacuum supplied to the adapter on the lid supplies vacuum to both the bucket and the pulsator.
3. To always insure that a positive seal is maintained, the adapter gasket and lid gasket should always be kept clean and free of milk build up.
4. Vacuum levels to operate the bucket milker can be between 11" to 13" of mercury. The recommended level is 12"Hg for goats. Buckets require a large volume of vacuum to completely satisfy their requirements, if vacuum levels are too low it will be harder to apply the milking unit. If too high health problems can occur.
5. Standard clusters have auto valves it is necessary for the novice machine milker to understand the key points of auto valves before using them. Auto valves are exactly what they sound like they are automatic shut off valves that are designed to shut off vacuum flow to an open inflation when there is no teat present. This allows you to have either one inflation on the goat milking or two inflations on the goat milking. They do this by the air rushing in the open inflation and forcing the metal disk in the body of the valve up against the hole inside the body of the valve this shuts off the air flow. Once a teat is inserted into the inflation the disk drops out of the way of the hole and the vacuum is applied again to the teat and milking commences. To apply an inflation simply put the inflation on the teat and the auto valve will open and start milking. The correct method to remove an inflation once milked out is to slip your little finger in-between the teat and the inflation, this allows air to rush into the inflation and the auto valve shuts off. There is a side lever on the auto valves and a great deal of confusion surrounds this lever so please read this section carefully. **THE LEVER IS NOT AN ON / OFF SWITCH** it is there to force the valve to stay open during your wash cycle. For correct operation it is imperative the levers on all valves in the system are in the up position during the entire milking process they also must be in the down position for the washing solution to be able to flow up the inflations during the wash cycle. So to recap **ALL LEVERS UP FOR MILKING / ALL LEVERS DOWN FOR WASHING**. Other important notes for auto valves. They do not stop the pulsation so when the valves are closed you will still see the inflation pulse slightly also they are vented to keep milk flow moving and away from the teat end. This means you will hear them venting even when they are closed (this is not an uncontrolled leak and it is supposed to happen).
6. Cleaning of the bucket can be done both manually and CIP (Cleaned In Place). The cluster can be CIP by submerging in a sink/bucket and drawing the rinse solution through the unit. This will also clean the milk hose from the claw to the bucket. The cleaning procedure of the bucket can be accomplished by using the existing solutions drawn through the claw and milk line and manually scrubbing the inside with a brush.
7. After the cleaning procedure is accomplished, the cluster should be positioned so that it will drain any residual cleaning solution and the bucket should be turned upside down to ensure complete draining.
8. Inflations should be changed regularly (for silicone inflations every 2500 milkings or sooner if damage is apparent).

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9. Milk tubing and pulsation line should be replaced every year to promote sanitary conditions and maintain flexibility.

10. The pulsator should be periodically cleaned. For BRK, or Interpuls pulsators this is done by submerging the pulsator in water and cleaning with a soft toothbrush style brush, Use warm soapy water (mild dish soap is fine). To dry the pulsator, place it on the bucket on let it operate on the bucket for several minuets until dry. Do not attempt to dry when freezing conditions exist. **And remember BRK, and Interpuls pulsators should Never be oiled or lubricated.**

11. Pulsators should be rebuilt every 1500 hours of operation. All the parts that should be replaced are available in a kit from Parts Dept. This rebuild can be performed by the dairyman requires no special skills.

Please note: Goat side practices and pre and post care of the animal is left solely up to the dairyman. Parts Dept. recognizes the practices published by the National Mastitis Council, Milking Machine Manufactures Council, and established 3A guide-lines. Parts Dept. makes no claim as to the right and wrong way of using this type of milking system. Parts Dept. only describes the function of how the piece of equipment was designed to work and has been proven to work in practical field applications. Parts Dept. will not be held accountable for any claims or damages due to the incorrect use of equipment.

## Typical Goat Bucket

