

# Milk Quality

## Udder Hairy Removal by Flaming or Singing

Hair removal is a vital process to improve udder cleanliness, reduce bacteria and make udder prep easier in the parlor. The fastest way to remove udder hair is to singe the udder on a regular basis. This process is easy and can save time in prepping cows by helping keep the udders cleaner.

Equipment can be purchased from many suppliers. One such company can be found at [www.uddersinge.com](http://www.uddersinge.com). You will need to buy a 20 pound propane tank or smaller one if you plan to carry it. If you use a 20 pound propane tank, a cart with wheels is highly recommended.

Adjust the regulator so you have a cool yellow flame. You should be able to move your hand quickly through the flame and remove the hair on your hand with out burning your skin. Any blue flame or



hissing sound will tell you the flame is too hot. Cows should be restrained in headlocks or in the milking parlor.

### Here is the process:

1. Remove any organic bedding from the udder that might catch on fire during the process.
2. Pass the wand under the udder about 2-4" from the udder floor. Move quickly, in and out in less than a second.
3. Have a cotton rag or glove on so you can put out any hot spots or rub off the burnt hair.
4. Move quickly from cow to cow in the parlor. Many dairy managers prefer singing before milking when the udders are full of milk, but some prefer to singe udders after the cow has been milked.



Develop a schedule for hair removal. On average, many dairy farms singe udders once a month, but farms may vary depending time and season. Flaming udders should reduce long hair from getting in the teat cups, reduce bacterial contamination, improve udder prep time and quality, and is a humane way to reduce hair on the udder.



**CAUTION:** a slow pass under the udder can cause blisters on the teats and udder floor skin. You can do the process again next time so *don't over do it*. Don't singe around flammable material and have a fire extinguisher available just in case.