

In Side by Side Comparison at 6,000-Cow Tidy View Dairy,

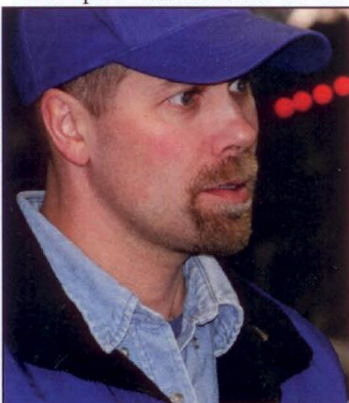
## Valiant® Pre/Post is Preferred Dip



Teats take a beating during winter and spring in Wisconsin. With temperatures plummeting below zero for days at a time in winter and the broad fluctuations that accompany spring, it's unquestionably a challenge to keep teats in good condition.

One of the state's largest dairies, Tidy View Dairy of Kaukauna (near Green Bay), dips teats during the winter months in an exfoliating and conditioning teat dip to prevent chapping and teat end problems. After running a split-herd trial comparing their usual chorine dioxide dip with Valiant®, Tidy View Dairy co-owner John Vosters decided to not only place the entire 6,000-cow herd on Valiant, but also their 2,500-cow herd in Omro, Wisconsin.

"This past winter was as harsh a winter as I can



Vosters

remember," Vosters said. "We had long bouts of cold (January didn't get above freezing) and lots of below zero weather. Our coldest temperature was -18° F. Teats in the Valiant group were softer; the other dip didn't leave teats conditioned as well, and the teat ends got hard in the cold weather. The milkers liked Valiant better,

*"...we put the whole herd on Valiant..."*

- John Vosters

too, mainly because of the convenience (no mixing), but also because the teat ends were easier to clean and the cows kicked less. So we put the whole herd on Valiant in mid January."

Tidy View Dairy milks 3,000 Holsteins three times a day in each of two double-50 parallel parlors. For the field trial, all cows were pre-dipped with an iodine dip. Cows at the T1 parlor were post-dipped with the product Tidy View Dairy has used during previous winters. Cows at T2 were post-dipped with Valiant. Milkers followed a routine of dip, strip, wipe, and attach.

Roger Thomson, DVM, of Team Management Concepts, Battle Creek, Michigan, scored teat skin condition when the trial began on October 20, 2008, and again December 16, 2008 (see bar chart). Random samples were scored from each group using a scale of 1 to 4, with 1 representing smooth teats and 4 indicating rough teats.

"From this trial, I realized the importance of the type and amount of skin conditioners," Dr. Thomson reflected. "Both dips are excellent products, but when it got cold, skin and teat end condition differences became obvious. The improvement in skin condition at T2 was significant and important for overall teat health. First, it improved the milkers' ability to clean teats before unit attachment, and second, it softened the rough teat ends, making it easier for exfoliation to take place. In the face of severe weather, this improvement is quite impressive and demonstrates the effectiveness of the high-level emollient package in Valiant."

