

# Getting Prepared to Teatseal Heifers



## LEADING UP TO TEATSEALING DAY

Ideally plan to Teatseal your heifers 4-6 weeks prior to start of calving. There are still benefits of doing it up to 1 week prior.

Use of a **herringbone shed is preferable**. Rotaries can be used but tend to make the job longer and require more people assisting to make this a safe option. Old disused herringbones can also be a good option but be mindful that heifers will attempt to jump sheds with low/wide breast rails more readily.

**Heifers need training** through the shed. 4-5 practice runs in the weeks leading up to the day in most cases is enough. Making the heifers stop and stand in the row for a few minutes is better than just letting them run through.

## ON THE DAY

Teatsealing is a slow job when done properly so **scheduling ample time** is important. 12-15 heifers/hour/person applying the product is a rough guide.

Having **enough people helping** is very important to keep the job safe and running smoothly. There needs to be enough people to load up heifers calmly and safely. For every person Teatsealing there also needs to be another assisting (e.g. tail jacking).

Heifers should be **fully fed** a few hours **before yarding**. Ideally keep **small groups** of around 30-60 heifers in the yard.

**Avoid using a feed pad** before or after Teatseal insertion. **Having an entrance yard free of mud** is a good idea also. Heifers should be **walking a short distance back to a clean paddock/break** afterwards.

Heifers should be **rowed tightly**. The breast rail should be as narrow as possible. Ideally row up heifers on wall side of shed.

All heifers are **lightly sedated** with a mandatory injection. This reduces their agitation and movement, making the job quicker and safer for all involved.

Heifers that are unduly agitated and potentially dangerous may need to be released without Teatseal insertion.

Please note, ideally, we need access to **hot water** during the process (warming product and hygiene reasons).

## FOLLOW UP

**Monitor heifers daily for two weeks** to check for any signs of problems such as swollen, hot quarters, lameness or off-colour heifers. Inspect closely as heifer mastitis can be hard to see.

*If you choose to Teatseal your heifers yourself it is extremely important that it is done cleanly. It is advisable to visit the Teatseal website ([www.teaseal.co.nz](http://www.teaseal.co.nz)) for video instructions.*