

**FURTHER STUDIES ON THE SUITABILITY OF FORMIC ACID
AS A POST MILKING TEAT DIP IN MASTITIS CONTROL**

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In a previous study it was demonstrated that the resident bacterial population on the teat surfaces were killed when dipped in 1.6% formic acid solution, without causing harm to the teats, and that 1.6% formic acid killed 10^8 *S. aureus* and *Str. agalactiae* organisms when suspended for 10 minutes.

Str. dysgalactiae and *Str. uberis* too are known to cause mastitis. Thus a good teat dip should be able to kill these organisms as well. In many instances milk samples from mastitic cows have yielded 10^8 organisms per ml on cultures. Thus a good teat dip should be able to kill this concentration of bacteria in a given time. In addition, a teat dip should remain stable and effective in the desired dilution for a reasonable period of time.

In this study the ability of formic acid to kill 10^8 organisms of *S. aureus*, *Str. agalactiae*, *Str. dysgalactiae* and *Str. uberis* when suspended in a 1.6% solution stored under room temperature (30-35°C) was tested fortnightly. The results showed that the efficacy of diluted formic acid remained unaltered up to the conclusion of the experiment in six months. Thus, formic acid 1.6% could be successfully used as a post milking teat dip in mastitis control.