

## FLUSHING GUTTERS IN THE DAIRY BARN

### 1. PURPOSE

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To describe the schedule and procedures for complete and thorough flushing of gutters.

### 2. RESPONSIBILITY

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Trained and qualified personnel

### 3. SCHEDULE

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5:00 A.M.  
After morning break  
Mid-afternoon  
After evening milking

### 4. PROCEDURES

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- 4.1. Gutters should be unblocked as needed throughout the day and checked to ensure they are flowing well every time.
- 4.2. Be sure one of the gutter valves in the barn is open (Figure 1; Gutter Valve Position), using the gutter valve tool (Figure 2; Gutter Valve Tool) before starting the manure pump.
  - 4.2.1 Gutter valves are located along the corridor at north end of the main barn in front of the box stalls (Fig. 3; Gutter Valve Location).
  - 4.2.2 Each valve (1-4) controls the gutter corresponding to its row (1-4).
  - 4.2.3 The switch for Gutter #1 is reversed.



**Figure 1:** Gutter Valve Position

Macdonald Campus Farm Cattle Complex  
Standard Operating Procedure # DC-121

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- 4.10. The valve of the next gutter must be open before closing the valve of the gutter that was just flushed THERE MUST ALWAYS BE ONE GUTTER VALVE OPEN. If they are all closed, the pressure will burst a pipe.
- 4.11. PAY ATTENTION TO HOW THE GUTTERS ARE FLOWING.
  - 4.2.5 Observe where manure spills over the lip at the center of the barn. If it is backed up, move it along with the steel pole.
  - 4.2.6 If the manure is too thick and not flowing; add water until the proper consistency is attained. Add water at the top end of a gutter as it i