

# Greenoak Airwash wins first prize for best new innovation at AgriScot

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The Greenoak Airwash system won first place in the AgriScot/The Scottish Farmer innovation award at the show, at Ingliston, this week.

The product is aimed at sterilising each individual liner on the milking cluster between cows, so that cross-infection via the liners as a vector is avoided. It can be installed into existing milking parlours, without changing liners or clusters and costs up to £500 per milking point.

This machine is imported from Holland - where it has been a runaway success in reducing cell counts and cases of mastitis - by Greenoak Equipment, from Cheshire. It works by using pulses of air to flush a mixture of water and peracetic acid through the inside of milking liners. The system uses just 400ml of water for each wash, per cluster.

Operation is completely automatic - in the case of doublesided parlours, the Airwash system is activated by the exit gate switch, while on swing-over units, the automatic cluster removal system, with a time lapse to cater for accidental knocks-offs, kicks the system in.

According to Greenoak's Mike Watson, even without the addition of chemical, some 95% of harmful bacteria is flushed out of the liner, by simply using water on its own.

Each unit has its own Dosatron control box to measure the dose of peracetic acid into the water stream, via a Y-junction which is fitted into the hose from the liner. Each cycle only lasts 20-30 seconds, so the operation does not hinder milking times.