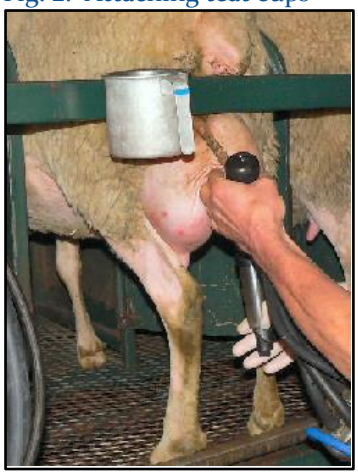
SECTION III-2
MILKING MANAGEMENT

2. ATTACHING OF TEAT CUPS TO UDDER PROPERLY

Milking operators can play an important role in maintaining vacuum stability by minimizing air admitted when they attach the milking units. Air admission during teat cup attachment may cause slugging in the milk line, which will result in vacuum fluctuations. Frequent milk slugging can cause slow milking of ewes and increased liner slips. Proper unit adjustment and will minimize liner squawks, which is particularly important toward the end of milking.

Fig. 2. Attaching teat cups



2.1 ISSUES OF MILKING SINGLE GLAND ANIMALS

Often the situation arises where milk can only be produced by a single gland. This may because one gland is severely damaged from a previous bout of mastitis and/or the teat is damaged so that no milk can be removed. Although milking a single gland animal varies slightly from normal milking practices, there are some easy methods that can be done to make this alteration quite simple.

Commonly, a clean inflation plug can be used on the inflation that is not in use (Fig. 9), to allow for adequate suction, while preventing unwanted debris from being sucked into the unit. If the unit has a separate automatic shut, this may be used when milking single gland animals. Although the damaged gland of single gland animals is quite visible as compared to a normal gland, it is important to clearly identify which gland is not being milked to avoid accidental milking.

Fig. 1. Inflation with plug