



# Cutting edge in hygiene: Urban sets new standards in calf rearing

**Wüstring, September 20<sup>th</sup> 2022**

Hygiene is an essential and very important factor for rearing healthy calves successfully.

Urban GmbH & Co KG has put together a whole package to help farmers improve the hygienic situation on their farms.

Next to bacteria and fungi, calves are often affected by endoparasites, especially cryptosporidia. These cause massive diarrhoea and can lead to high losses, which may either be immediate or delayed in the form of a lower milk yield. Chemical disinfectants are only effective within certain temperature ranges and usually have no or only limited effectiveness below 10°C. Effective disinfection can often not be guaranteed during the cold season.

Urban is now offering a new concept for sanitation using UV-C rays – a new approach to calf rearing.

This method of disinfection is chemical-free, fast, and energy saving, and has been used in hospitals, laboratories and the food industry for decades. Urban has successfully adapted the technology to the harsh conditions in agriculture.

The new hygiene concept used with the tried and tested Alma Pro automatic feeder comprises two elements. The first element is the HygieneSet<sup>UV-C</sup>, which won a silver medal at EuroTier 2021. It combines an automatic UV-C teat disinfection unit and a UV-C irradiation unit in the boiler, which keeps the boiler water completely free of pathogens. The second element is the retrofittable Hose Hygiene Set for the automatic feeder, which has become available from Urban this year. The milk-conducting hoses in this set are characterised by improved chemical resistance, so that the hoses still have smooth surfaces even after long use, which do not provide a chance for pathogens to settle.

The effectiveness of the HygieneSet<sup>UV-C</sup> has been proven in studies conducted in cooperation with the University of Applied Sciences in Soest, Germany. An irradiation period of just 10 seconds reduces the number of pathogens on the teat by 87%; 30 seconds of irradiation killed 97% of all pathogens. After installation of the UV-C lamp in the boiler, not a single pathogen could be detected, even though the water used for test purposes was highly contaminated.

Devised by Urban, this concept offers chemical-free and immediate, highly effective teat and water disinfection.

Another important component for maintaining hygiene on farms is Urban's EcoProtector<sup>UV-C</sup>. This attachment for the MilkShuttle has four powerful UV-C tubes. The EcoProtector<sup>UV-C</sup> is an allround disinfection device that can be used for many farm areas.

The EcoProtector<sup>UV-C</sup> can be used both horizontally (for disinfecting surfaces such as the floor spaces of calf hutches, stable floors, or feeding tables) and vertically (for disinfecting calf hutches, walls, or rooms).

Studies have shown that a single, slow passage of radiation is able to reduce the microbiological contamination on a swept floor surface by 90%. The same is true when the EcoProtector<sup>UV-C</sup> is used on feeding tables or other smooth surfaces.



A study conducted by Osnabrück University (Germany) has shown that just two minutes of irradiation are sufficient to reduce the microbiological contamination in a calf hutch by more than 92%. The hutch must be cleaned with a high-pressure cleaner first to remove dirt. To decontaminate it, the EcoProtector<sup>UV-C</sup> is then simply placed at the opening of the hutch and switched on. Everything else is fully automatic and chemical-free: no cleaning agents, sanitisers or disinfectants are required. This saves time, money and protects the environment.

The EcoProtector<sup>UV-C</sup> is operated via the MilkShuttle display. The system automatically detects whether the EcoProtector<sup>UV-C</sup> is mounted horizontally (for surface disinfection) or vertically (for calf hutch/wall disinfection). Various automatic disinfection programmes are suggested according to the mounting position. The user is of course free to choose an individual duration for the disinfection process or define a standard length of time.

The software automatically determines the operating life of the lamps and alerts the user when the lamps are due for regular inspection by the technical service in order to ensure that their sanitising power is maintained. In continuous operation, the lamps have an operating life of approx. 12,000 hours, which corresponds to 1.3 years of glow time. The lamps have special shatter protection so that no glass shards can endanger humans or livestock.

The EuroTier exhibition will take place in Hanover/Germany from 15 to 18 November 2022.

You will find the exhibition stand of Urban GmbH & Co.KG in Hall 13 | B12

**More information is available from:**

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**Press material**

Press material (pictures, further information on the products) can be found at the web address **<https://eurotier.urbanonline.de>**.

Our animated product videos (see <https://hygieneset.urbanonline.de> and <https://ecoprotector.urbanonline.de>.) illustrate the functionality of the products and the effect of UV-C irradiation.



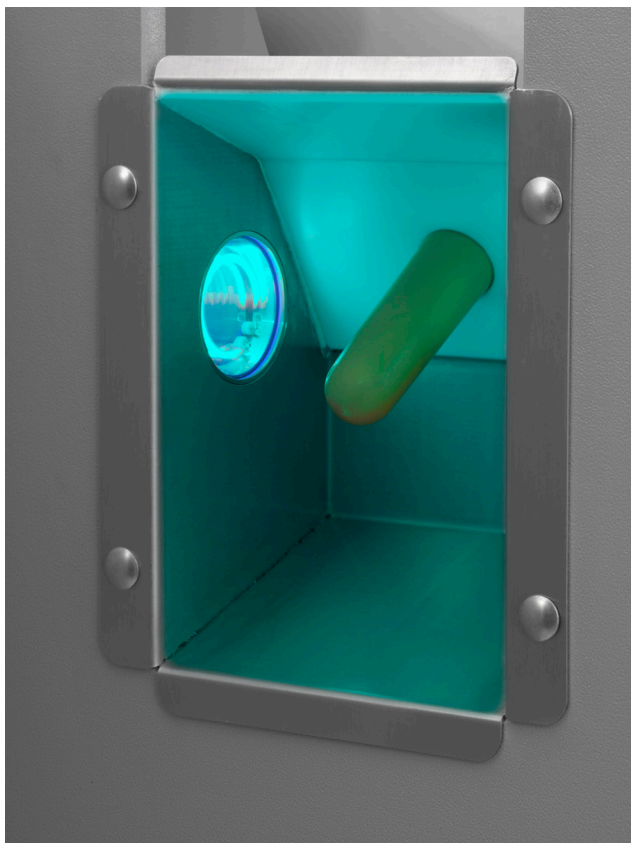
**EcoProtector<sup>UV-C</sup>:**  
vertical attached for  
hutch and room  
disinfection



**EcoProtector<sup>UV-C</sup>:**  
horizontally mounted for  
disinfection of floor  
surfaces



**HygieneSet<sup>UV-C</sup>:**  
UV-C disinfection of water,  
easy change of the bulb if  
required



**HygieneSet<sup>UV-C</sup>:**  
automatic teat disinfection