



# Full-zip jacket w/ thumbhole sleeve

Marketed by UdderTech, Inc. of Lakeville, Minnesota

The UdderTech full-zip jacket with a thumbhole sleeve was a work in progress. Cheryl Mohn, owner of UdderTech Inc., says her company already had waterproof jackets and later created the thumbhole sleeve for added comfort and efficiency. Mohn says it was just a matter of putting two and two together before creating a jacket that included this thumbhole sleeve.

## Why is there a need for this product?

**MOHN:** A lot of our products are geared toward people in the dairy industry. We've also always had a jacket that's waterproof and intended for milking. At first, though, it was a waterproof jacket that just had Velcro at the wrists and

no matter how tight the Velcro was hooked, it seemed like the milker's gloves were always popping out.

## What brought about this product's creation?

**MOHN:** I actually had a dairyman in California call and tell me that his workers' wrists were irritated because of the jacket sleeves. He asked if we could come up with something to keep their wrists dry. And so I started working on it. I had my pattern paper out and I was trying to design it so that the sleeve would be longer and would go down into the glove farther. My daughter, who is a nurse, told me that when she had to go into a quarantined area, she wore quarantine robes and gowns that had a

little thumbhole which allowed the glove to go over it, keeping the skin from being exposed. So she actually helped me design it.

## How will your product make a dairy more profitable and/or more efficient?

**MOHN:** I think, number one, it's going to keep your workers happier if they don't have that rash on their arm. If your arms are clean, it also helps with not getting the cows dirty. This jacket allows the worker to rinse off the sleeve and not have their arm get wet underneath. This is probably more of a happiness piece than a dollar piece. By the same token, it is nice to let your employees take off their work clothes when they get into their vehicles and be clean when they go home.

## When was the product introduced?

**MOHN:** The thumbhole jacket was first available in March 2010. We had done a few for special orders, but we started offering them commercially by last March.

## Any products in working circulation?

**MOHN:** Yes. We have products all over the U.S. as well as international customers.

## How long has the product been in development?

**MOHN:** Our jacket first started to include the thumbhole on the sleeve last March. The sleeve

with the thumbhole, however, was introduced in the summer of 2009. After about seven months, we decided to put it in the jacket as well.

## How will dairy producers adapt this type of technology for use on their operations?

**MOHN:** Other than milking, this jacket is great for washing down equipment and parlors as well, if you are using a power washer. You know water drips, and doing anything above your head, like washing the pipeline, the water runs down your arm. Now, instead, it runs down your sleeve.

## What type of feedback have you received from producers?

**MOHN:** Most of them have owned our other jacket before. And when they found out that we had this jacket with the thumbhole sleeve, a lot of them started to switch over. It was because dairy farmers called us and told us they liked the jacket that we then started producing the jacket with the thumbhole sleeve. **PD**



# PROGRESSIVE DAIRYMAN

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