

## University Dairy Specialist Says Make 6 Cows Do The Work Of 7

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Are you keeping seven cows when six would do the same? Take a look at your calving records. Are your cows calving 14 or 16 month intervals? If so then you may be keeping many cows.

Maximum production depends upon regular 12 month calving intervals. Records show the average calving interval for all cows in Delaware is more than 14 months. Few cows maintain a profitable level of production for longer than 12 months following calving. Additional time beyond the 12 month interval represents a loss of profitable lactation time.

14 month schedule

It requires seven years for a cow to complete six lactations. By refreshing every 12 months you can produce more milk more calves for herd replacement return more net profit with less feed less labor and less barn space.

A simple matter of mathematics will tell you if you're selling milk for \$4.50 per hundred weight. The average daily production of a cow producing 14 lbs. per year is

worth \$1.48. If the cow loses 21 days in her calving interval, it represents a sizeable loss to you. Even though the cow is not dry during this lost time her production level will probably be low. The net loss could amount to as much as \$30 by missing one breeding period.

Management makes the difference. To freshen regularly each year the cow must deliver her calf in a normal manner return to breeding condition rapidly and conceive promptly when bred. This is a big order.

Here are some things the dairyman can do to help:

1) Pay careful attention to accurate heat detection.

2) Allow at least 60 days rest after calving before re-

breeding.

3) Control diseases which interfere with normal reproduction such as Brucellosis, Vibriosis and Leptospirosis.

4) Feed cows and heifers adequately to maintain thrift and vigor.

5) Follow a good calf and heifer raising so that heifers are large enough to breed at 15 months of age.

6) Keep accurate and complete breeding records including heat periods, services, successful calving rates and any difficulties noted.

7) Consult a competent veterinarian if there are any unusual conditions.

Attention to these details will avoid long dry periods or

periods of low production at the end of lactation. You can take full advantage of high milk prices by getting peak production when the demand for milk is greatest. You can also have more calves to select herd replacements from.

## Farm Mortgages Are Doubled In Ten Years

Between 1949 and 1959, the average size farm mortgage increased more than 100 percent—from \$4,500 to \$10,650, according to a report issued today by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The average term of farm mortgages lengthened from 8.5 to 10.7 years, and the average interest rate increased from 4.73 to 5.41 percent.

Lenders varied in both term and interest rate for loans. For example, mortgage loans made by life insurance companies and Federal land banks were generally larger and on the average had longer terms and lower rates than loans made by other lenders, while banks and some of the miscellaneous lenders specialized in relatively small short-term, high-interest-rate loans.

These are some of the findings of a study made by a specialist in USDA's Economic Research Service in which he analyzed data on 55,000 farm mortgages obtained by managers of the Federal land bank associations, county recorders, insurance companies, and others from actual recordings made in the first quarter of 1959.

Some 1,600 sample counties representing every state except Alaska and Hawaii were included.

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