

Production Medicine Is Profitable

(Continued from Page A24)

second lactation took longer because body condition had to be put on late lactation heifers in order for them to freshen the second time and peak more normally.

Reproductive performance also improved in both groups, probably because they were not having their energy needs met.

Some other possible discoveries are:

- Low fat tests on the first test day might indicate poor body condition at freshening.
- Sudden sharp drops in the

production curve can indicate problems in changing from one production group ration to another.

- Low fat test in all groups can indicate over grain feeding, too much free fat in the ration or not enough energy in the ration.

- Poor production in all groups with high fat tests can indicate a poor feed program or poor quality forages.

First and second lactation animals consistently out performing older cows may mean the dairyman is not culling for production.

This typically happens in dairies that are trying to increase cow numbers.

As I said earlier, lactation curves help identify problems. They may suggest causes. Almost always, further investigation is required.

Such things as body scoring, forage and ration evaluation, checking feeding schedules, and simply weighing feeds often supply the answers. I have seen an automatic feeder wreak havoc on a feed program because it was not properly calibrated. The solution

was to weigh what it feeds and adjust it correctly.

Once changes are made, we run monthly curves in order to evaluate response. This can also be done by reports that split the three production groups into 0-100, 100-200, and 200 plus days in milk, if these numbers are moni-

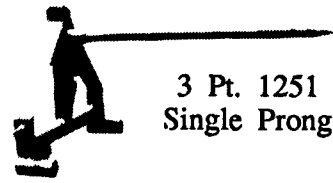
tored on a monthly basis.

I hope I have been able to show you one of the benefits of new technology. Mining your production records can provide nuggets of information that can put milk in your bulk tank and money in your pocket. The concept is true even if the wording is a little corny!

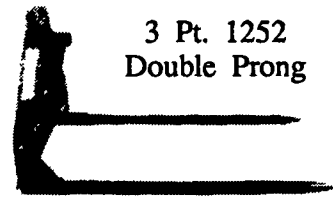


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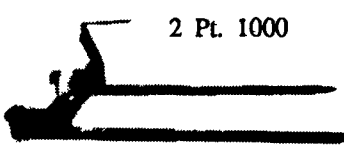


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