

GLENN'S UDDERINGS

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PEAK MILK, PERSISTENCY AND 305-DAY PROJECTIONS

Cows make most of their profit in the first 100 days of lactation. Thus, it is important to get cows off to a good start, without setting them up for problems later in lactation. That's no small task!

The goal is to get cows to peak well and to have them hold their peaks as long as possible, while still maintaining enough flesh (energy reserves) for conception to occur.

How well a cow peaks and how well she holds her peak produc-

tion affects how much milk she will produce that lactation and how much profit she will make. To estimate how much milk a cow will give in the first 305 days of her current lactation, multiply her peak production by 200 to 250 — 225 to 250 for first calf heifers and 200 to 250 for older cows. First calf heifers don't peak as high and don't drop off in production as fast as older cows.

All of this is computed for you automatically on your Penna. and Raleigh DHIA reports. It appears as estimated or projected 305 day

actual records or as estimated or projected 305 day mature equivalent (ME) records. For individual cows it appears on their cow page and on the herd's monthly report.

Herd average projections, by lactation number, are found on the Herd Summary Report.

Table 1 is an example that shows average peak productions,

actual and ME projections by lactation number, for a sample herd used in a Penna. DHIA records manual. Note that peak milk for first calf heifers is about 75% of that of older cows.

Table 1. Lactation Number, Peak Milk, 305 Day Actual and 305 Day ME Estimates

Age Category	Avg Days to Peak	Avg Lbs Milk at Peak	Lactation				305 Day Actual				305 Day ME			
			1-2 No. Pct	2-3 No. Pct	3-4 No. Pct	4-5 No. Pct	Milk Lbs	Fat Lbs	Pro Lbs	SNF Lbs (MRS)	Milk Lbs	Fat Lbs	Pro Lbs	SNF Lbs (MRS)
Lactation 1	82	71.6	18 117	17 104	16 98	14 94	18054	732	545		23908	959	706	
Lactation 2	58	92.2	19 114	17 96	16 94	11 94	20891	824	641		24193	945	722	
Lactation 3+	65	102.3	23 111	23 97	21 95	19 94	23619	910	727		24320	936	749	
Avg/Total	69	89.4	60 114	57 99	53 95	44 94	21014	827	643		24150	946	727	

Similarly, their 305 day actual estimate is about 75% of their ME estimate. For 3rd lactation cows, actual production is about 85% of their estimated ME production. The ME records are an estimate of what cows are expected to produce when they reach maturity at about 6-7 years of age.

It might surprise you to see that ME projections for first calf heifers are less than that of 2nd lactation cows. If we are making genetic progress in the herd, the first calf heifers should have the highest ME projections, and when we


compare apples to apples they probably do — even in the example in Table 1. The reason we don't see it in Table 1 or in Table 2, or in your own DHIA records is

that we are comparing a non-culled group of first lactation cows to older groups of cows that have already had the low produc-

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Table 2. Lactation Number, Peak Milk and 305 Day ME Projections

NUMBER OF COWS	AVERAGE AGE	AVG PEAK TEST DAY PROD	PROJECTED ME 305 DAY			
			MILK	FAT	PROTEIN	
1ST LACT	21	26	68	21125	754	655
2ND LACT	16	41	87	21634	762	671
3+ LACTS	23	69	92	20526	735	628
ALL LACTATIONS	60	47	83	21031	749	649



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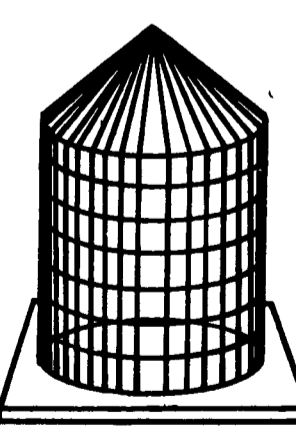


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