

These reports were revised several years ago to incorporate reproductive information and statistics as recommended by the American Association of Bovine Practitioners and the dairy core parameters subcommittee on reproductive records.

This system is complete and provides relevant information.

To effectively evaluate a reproductive program, both cows currently in the herd, and cull cows should be included.

The Herd Summary II Report summarizes reproductive data for first, second, third, or even greater lactation groups, as well as those cows culled during the previous 12 months. A summary of the entire herd is also provided.

In addition, the Reproductive Management Report provides information on individual cows and a summary of reproductive groups — pregnant cows, cows bred but not yet confirmed pregnant, cows open more than 60 days, but not serviced, and the breeding herd averages. Thus the performance of groups can be evaluated.

No single reproductive index adequately describes the reproductive performance of the herd. For example, calving interval is not the absolute measurement of reproductive performance. A herd may have an acceptable calving interval with a large number of services per conception or an excessive reproductive culling rate, neither of which are profitable. Calving interval is influenced by several components such as interval to first service, heat detection rate and conception rate. The information to calculate these is available on the DHIA report.

For example, conception rate is the inverse of services per conception (1 divided by services per conception).

By analyzing each of these components one can determine the weak link contributing to a less than desirable calving interval.

A common mistake in reviewing records is to focus on averages and fail to look at the distribution of cows around that average.

The DHIA summary provides the distribution of cows by various

categories of days open (<60, 60-89, 90-119, 120-149 and > 149); number of cows with one, two, three, or four or more services; and the distribution of intervals between breedings.

There are several other important reproductive indices listed on the DHIA reports which will provide clues to potential problem areas.

When all the data is critically examined, the management team should be able to determine the strong and weak points of the system.

Certain parameters such as first service, conception rate, overall conception rate, interval to first service, pregnancy rate and percent cows pregnant by 120 days could be posted monthly so that the staff could routinely monitor the situation.

Accurate records are critical to the management team when attempting to diagnose problems in reproductive management and build efficiency into the dairy operation.

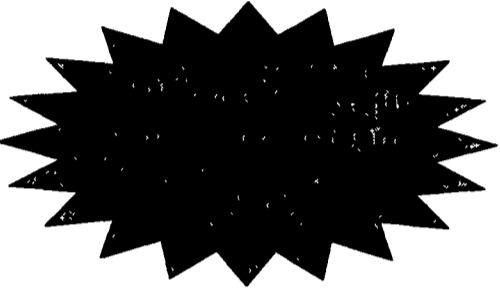
MICHAEL O'CONNOR
Penn State Extension
Dairy Reproduction
UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — In order to maintain a profitable calving interval with a good conception rate or to improve reproductive performance, the herd manager must be aware of the herd's profile of reproductive sta-

tus, how the situation compares to the optimum and where the strengths and weaknesses exist.

The Pennsylvania Dairy Herd Improvement Association (Pa.DHIA) Reproductive Management Report and the Herd Summary II Report provide reproductive data that is critical to monitoring reproductive performance.

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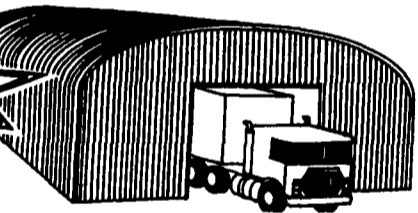


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