



dhia

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PROFILE OF COWS BY DAYS IN MILK

Days In Milk Category	Lactation 1						Lactation 2						Lactation 3+					
	No Cows	Test Milk	Linear SCC	Wid Sec	New Infect	Body Cond	No Cows	Test Milk	Linear SCC	Wid SCC	New Infect	Body Cond	No Cows	Test Milk	Linear SCC	Wid Sec	New Infect	Body Cond
0-40 Days	6	59.0	3.4	179	3	3.8	7	76.4	1.4	35		3.7	8	80.7	5.3	514	4	3.6
41-99	6	65.1	3.0	103	1	3.3	4	97.6	3.3	128		2.9	10	97.5	3.0	100		3.2
100-199 Days	15	68.6	4.8	370		3.1	12	90.0	5.7	651	2	3.0	15	87	5.6	612		3.0
200-299 Days	19	68.6	5.6	629	3	3.2	12	75.7	4.4	274	1	3.5	23	78.5	4.7	342	3	3.0
300+ Days	3	59.8	2.9	95		3.2	1	72.0	3.1	112		3.5	5	67.1	4.4	266		3.6
Avg/Total	49	66.4	5.0	406	7	3.3	36	82.7	4.7	336	3	3.3	61	83.3	4.9	381	7	3.2

Dairyman To Dairyman

GEORGE CUDOC

PA DHIA Consulting Dairyman



QUESTION: We have noticed that the percent of new infections in our herd SCC has doubled the last three months. Where should we look to find the cause of this?

ANSWER: SCC increases during the summer months are certainly not new to Pennsylvania dairymen.

High humidity, probably more than high temperatures, is the hardest thing on udder health. Couple the two and we have cows that have only one thing in mind, to keep cool. It's a wonder that every cow doesn't develop problems.

To look further into this herd's specific problem, we observe that from August 1, 1997, through May

1, 1998, the herd averaged 9.5 new infections per test period, or about 7 percent of the herd.

This information can be found on the SCC management report as well as Herd Summary II.

August 1998 shows these numbers increasing to 17 new infections or 12 percent of the herd.

Finding solutions to these kinds of problems requires us to pinpoint target areas.

Try not to panic and make wholesale changes, but rather take small steps to ease the problem.

Look at the bottom right corner of Herd Summary II to see a SCC profile of cows by days in milk.

When examining this section of the herd in question, one very important detail is observed that

may map a direction in solving this problem — in August 1998 there are a total of 21 cows in the 0-40 days in milk category. Of these 21 most recently fresh cows, seven are observed with new infections. Where are they becoming infected?

Infected cows on the first test day most likely become infected in one of three periods:

1. First two weeks following drying off.
2. During the springer period.
3. First two weeks after calving.

This herd also indicates that six of the 21 fresh animals are heifers. Fifty percent of these heifers were infected. With heifers not going through a dry period and a high

rate of infection, we can't eliminate the dry cow period as a problem, but I'm inclined to concentrate on the springer and post-calving periods.

Doing CMTs on fresh cows indicated infection already at calving, so now we can look at the 3- to 4-week pre-fresh period.

Questions were raised about animal concentration and comfort, as well as bedding choice and cleanliness, in this herd.

Unfortunately, for this herd, or others like it, infections during this period are the most profit-robbing.

The estimated 1.5-pound milk loss per day by a 1-liner SCC code increase can be as much as 2- to 3-times this loss in early lactation.


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Dairyman to Dairyman will be a regularly appearing column by George Cudoc, consulting dairyman for PA DHIA. Contact him by calling the PA DHIA Service Center at (800) 344-8378, or him directly at (724) 625-8971; fax (724) 625-8972; e-mail: GCudoc@yi.net



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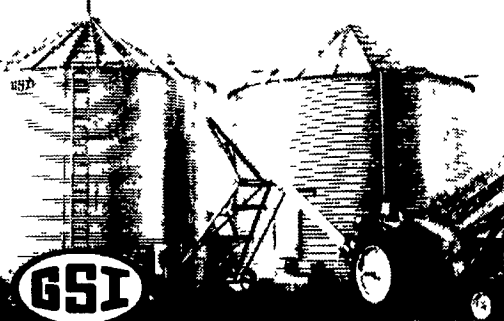


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