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Calculate Your Farm's Livestock Density

The total number of AEU's for each species is added up, divided by the number of acres that can receive manure, and the AEU's per acre is determined.

If it is more than 2.0 AEU's (if it is 2.1 AEU's, a plan must be filed), submit a plan by Oct. 1.

If it isn't, a voluntary plan can still be filed.

Those requiring a plan can receive 75-percent cost-share money to have the plan developed, but only for plan work done after the funding has been approved.

Funding will be available only for CAOs through Sept. 30. After that date, funding is to be made available to both CAOs and those seeking to file volunteer plans.

For those without knowledge of

the average weights of their livestock, for use in making the AEU calculations a table of standard animal weights has been provided by the State Conservation Commission, the agency that has the authority to implement and enforce Pennsylvania's Nutrient Management Act.

Those tables are available at local conservation districts.

If a farmer has records of the actual weights of animals on the farm, those statistics can be used to calculate an operation's AEU's per acre.

For more information, call or visit a local conservation district office.

- Restore flesh quickly to a working level of about 3.0
- Don't let scores drop below 2.5, conception rates drop fast at this level and reproduction literally shuts down at a score of about 2.0.
- Don't let scores get above 4.0 These cows are unhealthy. They have poor immune responses, more calving problems, sluggish appetites, they lose flesh more rapidly, become thinner and are more prone to get ketosis
- Start early and prepare to dry off all cows at a uniform score of about 3.5. Remember, it takes time to put flesh on cows that are still pumping a lot of milk. At a pound per day gain in weight, it may take 3-4 months to improve body condition score by 1 (ie from 2.5 to 3.5). One body condition score is about 8-10% of a cow's body weight, that's about 120 lb for a 1350 lb cow

Figure 1.

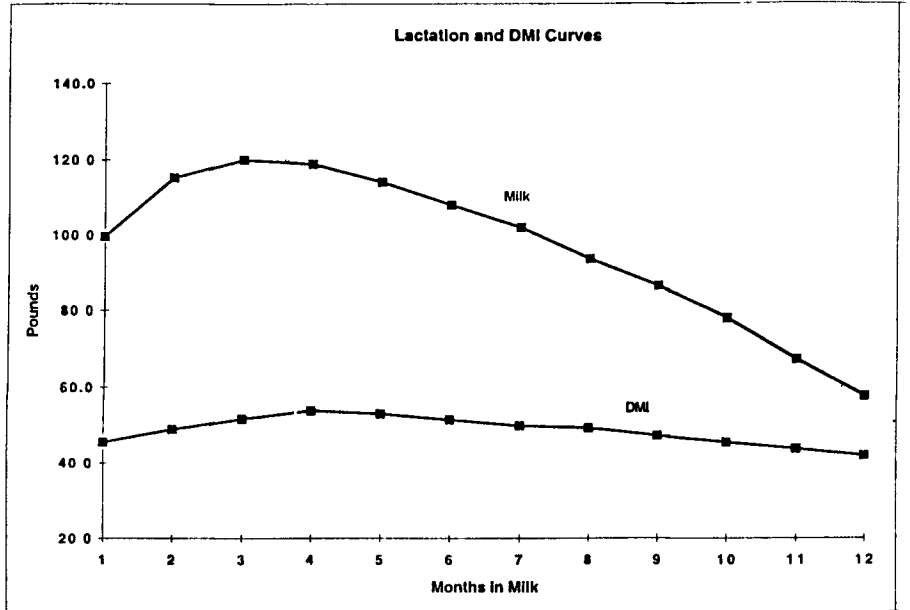


Figure 2

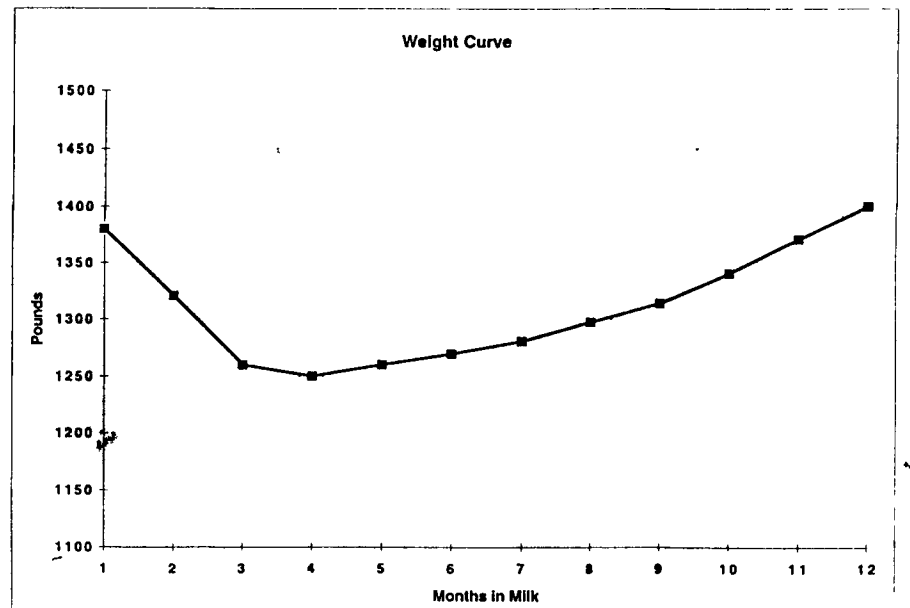
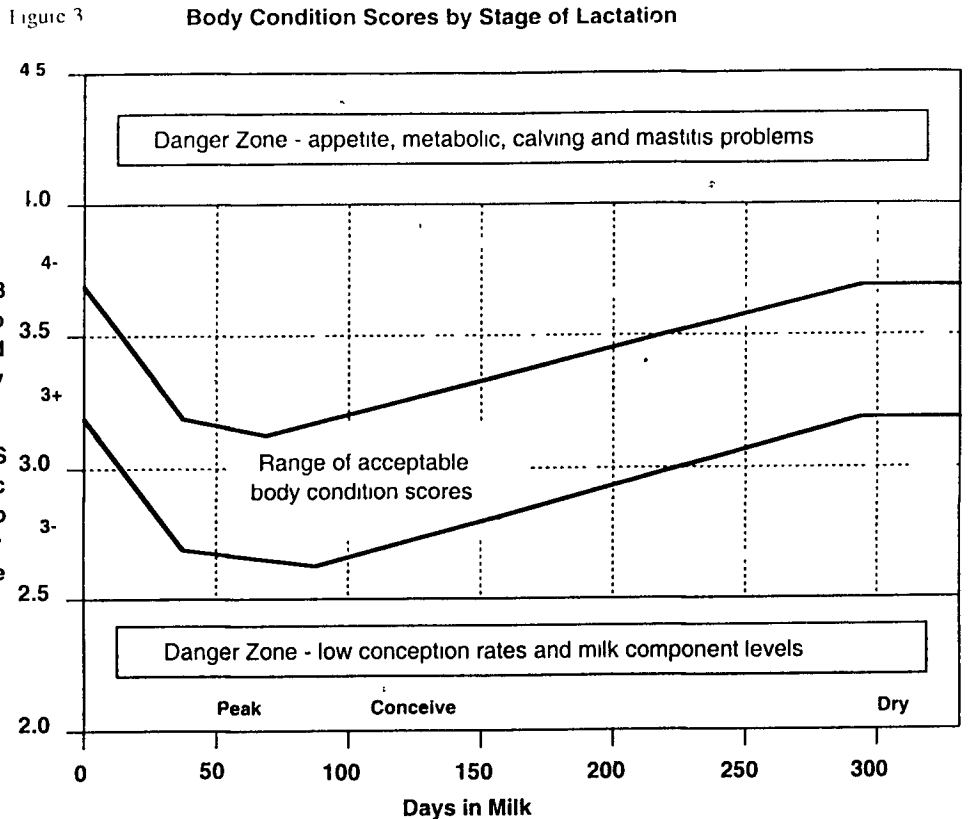


Figure 3



Guidelines:

- * Keep body scores between the 2 lines on the graph; aim for near the middle.
- * Limit body condition loss to less than 1 full score within 70 days of calving. Greater losses are associated with poor conception rates. More rapid losses cause ketosis, fatty livers and poor immune response. One body condition score is about 123 lbs, or about 10% of body weight.
- * Don't let body condition scores drop below 2.5, or go over 4.0. Below 2.5, conception rates, milk production and milk components drop. Over 4.0, depressed appetites cause excessive loss of flesh, ketosis, etc
- * Get cows in positive energy balance (gain weight) 70-90 days after calving, otherwise, conception is delayed and cows may lack flesh at dryoff time.
- * Dry cows off at code 3.5. To gain 1 full score, cows must gain 1 lb of flesh per day for 4 months, this is in addition to growth and body development
- * Don't let dry cows drop in body condition scores

Nutrient Management Information Sheet

Please send this information to the conservation district by Oct. 1, 1998.

1. NAME: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

DATE: _____ TELEPHONE: () _____

2. Average number of animals of various animal types on your farm during the past 12 months (dairy, beef, meat poultry, egg poultry, feeder hogs, sows, etc.):

Animal Type	Average Number of Animals
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

3. Number of acres of owned land available for manure application: _____ acres.

Number of acres of rented land available for manure application: _____ acres.

4. Animal Equivalent Units per acre for your operation: _____ AEU's/acre.

5. If you are a Concentrated Animal Operation (more than 2 AEU's per acre):

a. Do you need assistance in finding someone to develop your plan? Yes No

b. Are you interested in getting certified to write your own plan? Yes No

c. When do you anticipate submitting your plan to the district? _____

6. If you are not a Concentrated Animal Operation (less than 2 AEU's/acre):

a. Are you interested in developing a plan? Yes No

b. Do you need assistance in finding someone to develop your plan? Yes No

