



**DAIRY FARM  
MANAGEMENT  
BASICS**

A Farm Management Course by  
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Calving Interval - Article 23

As you plan and manage your herd's reproductive program, set some goals for yourself, such as

- Heat detection rates \_\_\_\_\_ %
- Conception rates \_\_\_\_\_ %
- Days open \_\_\_\_\_ days
- Calving intervals \_\_\_\_\_ mo
- Pregnancy success rate \_\_\_\_\_ %

Let us begin by looking at calving interval, but rather than focusing on calving interval, a more important question might be, when do you want cows to calve? Consider such things as

- Ideal seasons of the year to avoid problems associated with heat stress When do cows have fewer calving problems and fewer breeding problems? When is it easier to get them into peak flow?
- Seasonal milk prices Is it beneficial to produce the most milk when milk prices are highest? Also consider the amount of calving facilities needed if you have a seasonal herd
- Availability and price of feeds Do you want to produce the most milk when purchased feed prices are lowest, or during the grazing season when the need for purchased feeds is less?
- With higher producing cows and with the availability of more and more management tools, such as

BST, a short calving interval may not necessarily be the most profitable, especially if cows continue to milk 70-80 lb or more at 300 days into lactation

What is the maximum days open you can tolerate to achieve your desired calving interval? What window of time do you need for getting cows settled on time? Table 1 can help you calculate this For a 13 month calving interval, cows have to be settled by 109 days after calving (days open) If your volunteer waiting period (VWP) from date of calving is 60 days, then you have a 49 day window of time to catch the cow in heat, to service her, and to get her settled That's slightly more than 2 heat periods What are your goals and how well are you achieving them?

Table 1. Targeting Days Open to Desired Calving Interval

	Example	Yours
Desired calving interval - months	13	_____
- days (mo x 30 days)	390	_____
Gestation period	- 281	_____
Maximum days open	109	_____
Volunteer waiting period	- 60	_____
Window of time for getting cows settled	49	_____
Days per heat period	- 21	_____ 21
No. of heat periods needed to get cows settled	2 3	_____

## Equipment Manufacturers Institute Holds Convention

CHICAGO, Ill. — Arlie Tucker, chairman and chief executive officer of Komatsu Mining Systems, Inc., Vernon Hills, IL, was elected the 1998-99 chairman of the Equipment Manufacturers Institute (EMI) during its 105th Annual Convention held recently in Coronado, CA. His one-year

terms as chairman officially began November 1, 1998.

As an active member of EMI, Tucker has been on the Institute's Board of Directors since November 1994 and has served as EMI's vice chairman from 1997-98 and second vice chairman from 1996-97.

Tucker's experience in the construction equipment industry began in 1964 when he joined Haulpak as a marketing trainee. After numerous promotions, he was named president of the Haulpak Division in 1986. In 1990 he became executive vice president of marketing/sales for the Komatsu Dresser Company. He was promoted to the chairman and CEO in 1992. More than a year ago, Tucker was named chairman and CEO of Komatsu Mining Systems and elected as a board member of Komatsu Ltd.

His educational experiences include a bachelor's degree from Bradley University and a master's degree from the University of Chicago.

November 1 also marked the transition date for the schedule change in other EMI officers and directors. Joining Tucker as EMI officers are Rich Christman, senior vice president, strategy and corporate development, Case Corporation, Racine, WI, as vice chairman and Robert Vermeer, chairman and CEO, Vermeer Mfg. Company, Pella, Iowa, as second vice chairman

Appointed to serve a second term as vice chairman of construction was John Fitzgerald, business manager, construction material handling equipment, Ingersoll-Rand Company, Shippensburg, PA. Gary McDonald, executive vice president, MacDon Industries Ltd., was appointed to serve a one year term as vice chairman of agriculture

Several new directors were also installed at the recent EMI Board meeting in Coronado, CA. They include:

- Ludolf Bjelland, President, Alfa Laval Agri Inc., Kansas City, MO
  - David Black, President, CEO & Chairman, JLG Industries, Inc., McConnellsburg, PA
  - Dennis Eagan, President & CEO, VME North America, Asheville, NC
  - Robert Kluver, President & CEO, Angus-Palm Industries, Inc., Watertown, SD
  - Steve Krause, President & CEO, Krause Plow Corporation, Inc., Hutchinson, KS
  - Thomas Laird, President, Woods Equipment Company, Rockford, IL
  - David Woods, COO, Charlie Machine Works, Inc., Perry, OK
- Other members of the board include:
- Nicolas Babson, Chairman & CEO, Babson Bros. Company, Naperville, IL
  - Donald V. Fites, Chairman & CEO, Caterpillar Inc., Peoria, IL
  - Hans Gaastra, President, McKay Empire, Regina, SK, Canada
  - David Grzelak, President & COO, Komatsu America International, Vernon Hills, IL
  - Bernard Hardiek, President, Worldwide Ag Division, Deere & Company, Moline, IL
  - Charle Hoge, President, Melroe Company, Fargo, ND
  - William Horaney, President, Hitachi Construction Machinery (America) Corporation, Houston, TX

# Smart Yields



**H-2515** 110 Day RM  
Kermit Martin Quarryville, PA

H-2515	192.5 Bu./A
P-3394	180.1 Bu./A

Fisher Welles Elmira, NY

H-2515	215.2 Bu./A
DK595	186.8 Bu./A

Rinaldi Farm Easton, PA

H-2515	173.1 Bu./A
P33V08	154.6 Bu./A

**H-2581** 117 Days RM  
Clear Meadow Farm Whitehall, MD

H-2581	208.9 Bu./A
DK-642	184.9 Bu./A
P3335	188.1 Bu./A

**H2390BT** 102 Day RM  
Clear Meadow Farm Whitehall, MD

H2390BT	187.1 Bu./A
H-2382	180.3 Bu./A
P35N05	186.5 Bu./A

1997 - 98 Multi Location Data

H-2390BT	164.1 Bu./A
P37M81	152.0 Bu./A

**H-2547** 112 Day RM  
Clear Meadow Farm Whitehall, MD

H-2547	192.6 Bu./A
DK591RR	164.4 Bu./A
P3335	188.1 Bu./A

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