

dhia


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labeled "Profile Of Cows By Days In Milk". Here we can calculate that cows that freshen from November to April milk 98# on their first test day. This compares to 84# for cows that freshen May to October. This is no big surprise when we know that heat stress will be much more devastating on these early lactation cows. These same cows show a 3000# advantage in 305 day production when they calve during the cooler months.

may not produce as we know they are capable of. If we use this information we can develop a plan that may be a bit different than our customary management, but who cares? Sometimes we need to change before our cows can.

Dairyman To Dairyman



GEORGE CUDOC
PA DHIA
Consulting
Dairyman

Question: We have tried everything to eliminate heat stress in our herd but summertime production still drops 10 to 14 pounds of milk. Should we be considering anything else to reduce this much milk loss?

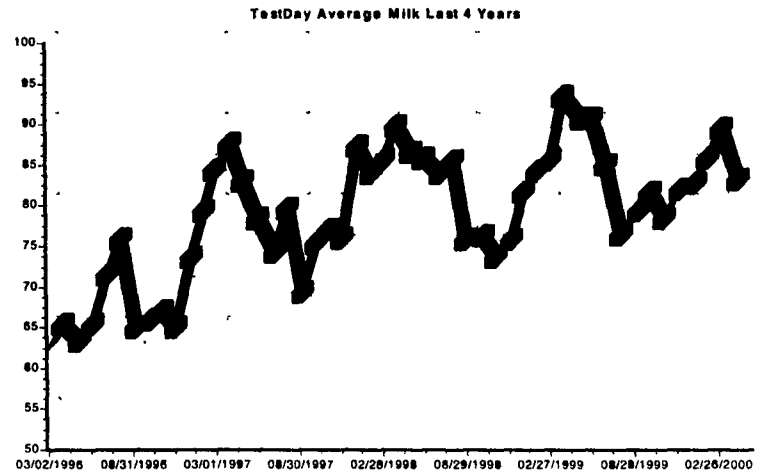
Normally the beginning of May doesn't inspire this type of question, but then again early May seldom hits temperatures in the upper 80's like we just experienced.

Barn Owl 2000™ allows us to look at the past four years in the above graph. We see that indeed milk production bottoms out each year during July and August.

What if we could prevent half of this downward production trend? When we do everything we know to prevent problems concerning heat stress and seem to make little progress, maybe we should shift our focus. In this case there is the possibility that nothing more is to gain by addressing the milking herd. We can change our thinking a bit and look at the heat stress of our dry cows. I looked at the DHIA records for this same time frame with my focus on milk levels at the start of the lactation for mature cows.

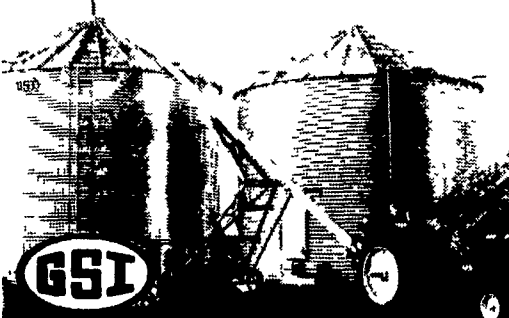
Herd Summary II contains information regarding production on the first test day in the section

Managing cows that calve during inclement weather poses some unique challenges. This summer may be a good time to maintain what we currently are doing for the milking herd to relieve heat stress but add the extra dimension of heat stress management for dry cows. Improving comfort, increasing dry matter intake, and reducing stress are not just milking cow priorities, they are meant for everyone. We already have information through our DHIA reports that may help us focus on times and conditions when cows



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