



Worksheet 11: Cow Health Disorders and Dry Cow Evaluation

Cow-related Factors

1. Is the dry period length near the ideal of 60 days?
 % less than 40 days dry _____
 % 40-60 days dry _____
 % more than 70 days dry _____

2. Do cows have the proper body condition scores?
 BCS 3.5 at dry off Yes
 No

 BCS 3.5 at calving Yes
 No

 Average BCS of dry cows is _____
 % dry cows BCS more than 4.0 _____
 % dry cows BCS less than 3.0 _____

3. Are the health disorders around and after calving within tolerable limits?

Incidence, duration of effects and cost of health disorders:

Disease	LIR mean %	LIR range %	Duration of effect (days)	Cost (\$) per case	Cases/yr Your Farm	Estimated cost above "normal" LIR
Dystocia (1 st lact)	25.0	?	305	28.53		
Dystocia (2 nd + lact)	10.0	?	305	10.00		
Retained placenta	8.6	1.3 - 39	30	285.00		
Milk fever	6.5	3 - 22	30	335.00		
Displaced abomasum	1.7	0.3 - 6.3	30	340.00		
Ketosis	4.8	1.3 - 18.3	60	145.00		
Metritis	10.1	2 - 37	60	50.00		
Mastitis	14.2	1.7 - 54.6	60	200.00		
Cystic ovaries	8.0	1 - 16	30	39.00		
Hardware disease	0.8	?	30	50.00		
Lameness	7.0	1.8 - 30	60	302.00		

LIR = Lactational Incidence Risk: the probability that the disease or problem will occur during any lactation. Kelton, D.F., 1998, JDS 81:2502-2509.

$$\text{Estimated cost above "normal" LIR} = \frac{\text{Your herd incidence \%}}{\text{Your herd incidence \%}} - \frac{\text{"Normal" incidence \%}}{\text{"Normal" incidence \%}} \times \text{No. cows in herd} \times \text{Cost/case}$$

$$\text{Your herd incidence \%} = \frac{\text{\# cases}}{\text{\# cows calving}} \times 100$$

4. Are "downer" cows less than 2%? _____
5. How many calves are born dead? _____
Heifers <12%; Cows <6% (this will depend on the number of dystocias)
6. Is physical injury less than 2%? _____
7. Is cow mortality less than 3%? _____

Management-related Factors

Does your dry cow health program include:

A careful dry-off procedure including dry cow therapy?

- Yes (please describe dry-off procedure): _____

- No _____

A vaccination program designed for your farm with the help of your herd veterinarian?

- Yes (please describe vaccination program): _____

- No _____

Routine hoof trimming?

- Yes (please describe frequency and criteria for trimming cows): _____

- No _____

Control of external (lice, flies, etc.) and internal (worms) parasites?

- Yes (please describe your parasite control program): _____

- No _____

Two groups (far-off and close-up) of dry cows with appropriate diets?

- Yes
 No

How long do your close-up cows have access to the close-up transition cow diet? _____
(2-3 wks desirable)

A complete herd health record system where all diagnosis and treatments are recorded?

- Yes (please describe type of record system you use): _____

- No _____

See **The 100-Day Contract Dairy Wellness Plan** (Pharmacia Animal Health) on-line at:
<http://www.100daycontract.com>