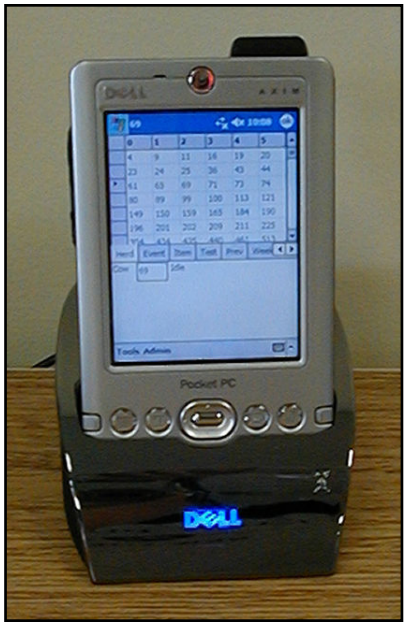
Dairy Comp's Pocket Cowcard Special

$50 off on-site setup

For customers using Dairy Comp 305 herd management software, there is software available to run on a pocket PC. This software is called "Pocket Cowcard" (PCC). If you find yourself frequently running back to the main computer to look up a cow, or you have heifers or dry cows at another site, you may want to consider this option. There are two primary Pocket Cowcard subscription types; Read Only and Read/Write. The Read only subscription allows cow data and lists to be synchronized from your main PC to the pocket PC. The next subscription level is Read/Write capability and allows data entry on the pocket PC. With this subscription, not only can you have cow data and lists to view, you can also enter vet check results, breedings and other events. Once data is entered, it is synchronized back to the main Dairy Comp computer.



Dairy One has worked primarily with the Dell AXIM model of pocket PC. We can order one for you, then bring it out to your farm for setup and instruction. Or you can purchase the pocket PC on your own. **If you contact us to schedule a visit before June 30th 2007, we will take $50 off the on-site setup charge.** (Due to scheduling constraints, you may receive your on-site visit after July 1st, but if you call before then to schedule, we will honor the special.)

Dairy Comp user requirements include:

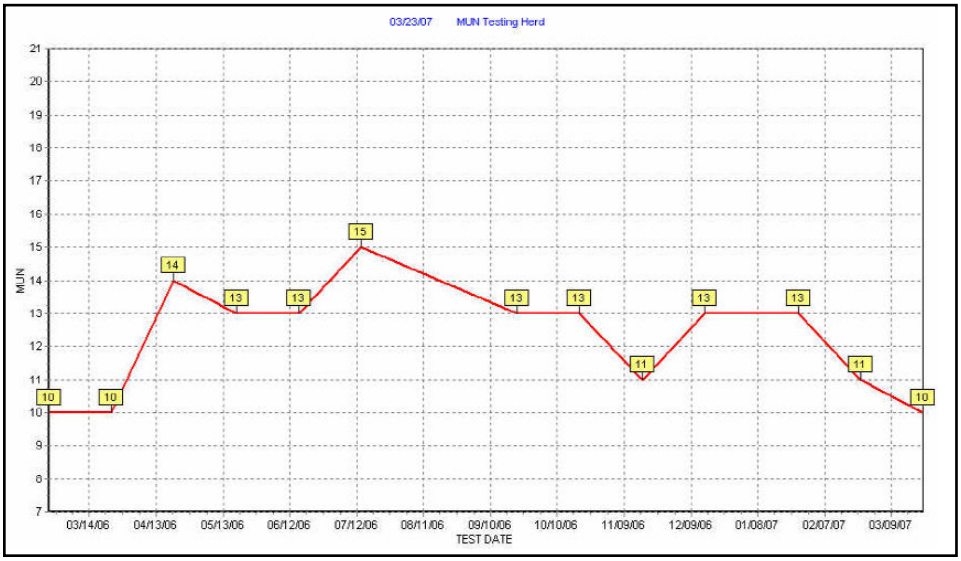
- Current DC update subscription.
- XP operating system preferred.
- Pocket PC (Dell Axim recommended) with Windows for pocket PC 2003 or greater.
- Internet access.

For more information, or to take advantage of the on-site special, please contact the Dairy Management Resources group at dmr@dairyone.com or call 1.800.344.2697, ext. 3.

MUN Analysis Strategy

Looking at Milk Urea Nitrogren levels is only helpful if we know what we are looking at, and we can make changes if necessary. Below we have summarized the steps that we used to analyze diet balance and feeding management strategies on a farm.

This example farm has 265 adult Holsteins with 235 milking. They get MUN bulk tank results and also test individual cows for MUN monthly. The graph below shows the results of that testing and we will follow an outline to analyze the herd.



Graph 1

How To Use Milk Urea Nitrogen

- Establish Average for the Herd
- Look at Range of Herd
- Look at Lactation Differences
- Look at Range of Herd
- Look at Group Differences
- Look at DIM Differences

Establish Average for the Herd

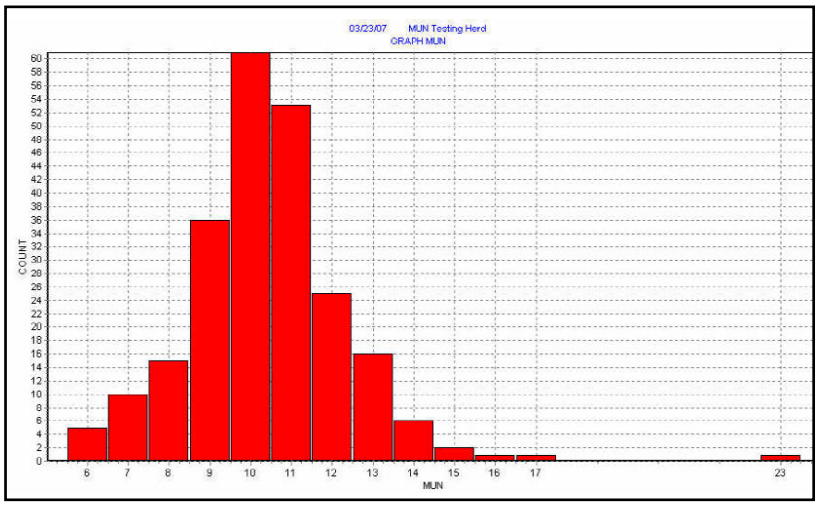
	Total	Number	Average
232 total			
MILK	17175	232	74
PMILK	16248	211	77
PCTF	851	232	3.7
PCTP	718	232	3.1
MUN	2415	232	10.4

Figure 1

We see that the actual MUN average is 10.4 for this test. This is within our 10-14 target and our first impression is that there may not be any problems.

Look at Range of Herd

We see that herd range is a low of 6 and a high of 23. We would like to see ranges with-in +/- 6 from the average and our low of 6 fits well but the high of 23 suggests there may be something to improve on. One way to see this is with a graph.



Graph 2

We notice that there is only one cow at MUN=23 and without her the range would be 6-17 and now near our target of +/-6. This cow was identified as a very early lactation cow (10 DIM) and high fat test (5.8%) and low protein (2.9%). She should be given due attention as all the information leads us to uspect she may not be healthy.

Look at Group Differences

By PEN	%COW	#COW	Av MUN
1	34	78	10.5
2	33	77	9.5
3	33	77	11.3
=========	====	====	=======
Total	100	232	10.4

Figure 2

In Figure 2, It looks like pen 2 is performing differently than pen 1 or 3 and would warrant we look a bit further. We can look to see what percent of the cows meet our target of 10-14.

Look at the Percent and Number of Cows in the Target Range

PEN	PCT	Count	Total
1	78	61	78
2	49	38	77
3	80	62	77
Total	69	161	232

Figure 3

In Figure 3, as expected the pen with the lower average had the least percent of compliance to our target. Notice that even though the MUN of pen 1 is just 1 unit higher than pen 2, the percent of cows in our target of 10-14 is quite a bit lower.

Look at DIM Differences

Each lactation group is identical in Figure 4.

By LCTGP	%COW	#COW	Av MUN
1	40	92	10.4
2	27	63	10.4
3	33	77	10.4
=========	====	====	=======
Total	100	232	10.4

Figure 4

In Figure 5, we see MUN numbers get lower as cows are greater DIM. This coupled with what we saw for lower MUN in pen 2 might give us reason to suspect that pen 2 is a later lactation or low cow group being fed differently.

By DIMGP	%COW	#COW	Av MUN
1-40DIM	31	73	11.3
40-100	30	70	10.3
101-200-	28	65	9.7
201-300	7	17	10.0
>300dim	3	7	9.0
=========	====	====	=======
Total	100	232	10.4

Figure 5

Conclusions

MUN numbers are not grossly in error for this herd. After interviewing the herd owner it is indeed a herd that feeds two different rations. Group 1 and 3 are fed one ration while group 2 is fed another. This is actually good news as we can make minor changes that will address the group we see the most out of balance. We can look at one other aspect of the herd as a way to indicate how much may be gained by making these adjustments. What is the effect on cow performance of moving cows into pen 2 that is likely short on protein even though not by much?

In Figure 6, we can see that the MKDEV (pounds of milk produced per cow different than we expected them to produce) is much higher for cows currently in group 2 than came from group and is estimated at - 4.6 pounds. Note that the cows that were in pen 2 last month and remain this month are nearly MKDEV of zero and thus producing what we expect.

By PPEN	%COW	#COW	AvDIMTD	Av MILK	AvPMILK	AvMKDEV	Av PCTF	Av PCTP
1	80	63	179	84	85	4.6	3.5	3.1
3	20	16	106	81	74	10.6	3.5	3.0
PEN 1	34	79	164	83	83	5.8	3.5	3.1
1	21	16	228	66	77	-4.6	3.8	3.1
2	79	61	302	57	61	-0.4	3.9	3.3
PEN 2	33	77	287	59	64	-1.3	3.9	3.3
0	27	21	19	65	0	0.0	4.1	3.1
3	73	56	84	85	86	0.5	3.4	2.9
PEN 3	33	77	66	80	63	0.4	3.6	2.9
0	9	21	19	65	0	0.0	4.1	3.1
1	34	79	189	80	83	2.7	3.6	3.1
2	26	61	302	57	61	-0.4	3.9	3.3
3	31	72	89	84	84	2.7	3.4	2.9
=========	====	====	=======	=======	=======	=======	=======	=======
Total	100	233	172	74	70	1.6	3.7	3.1

Figure 6

Farm Recommendations:

- Balance group 2 for slightly higher protein levels.
- Find the cow with the extreme high MUN and examine.
- Monitor the effects of moving cows each month and determine if diet changes are costing or saving money long term.