

Keep Track Of Bulk Tank Results With Tank Watch

Tank Watch is a web-based service that “watches” dairy producers’ bulk tank test information, and then notifies them when their custom set milk quality or component limits are exceeded. It also stores bulk tank test information, adds local environment data and allows tracking changes overtime.

There are three primary reasons a dairy might be interested in Tank Watch.

- 1) The dairy can respond more quickly to something “breaking” in their herd, or in the milking system. They will immediately be notified when one of their bulk tank milk test results exceeds their preset limits. For example if their SCC goes over 200,000, or their fat drops below 3.5, or their bacteria count goes over 80,000, they can receive an alert. Dairies can set their alerts by absolute values, or by degrees of change. They pick the test, they set the limits, and they tell Tank Watch how they wish to be notified. They can choose to be automatically notified by email, fax, pager, or cell phone.
- 2) Dairies can use these same settings so other people, like a nutritionist or farm advisor can be notified in like fashion.
- 3) The dairy can use historical information to understand how their milk is changing over time. They can log on to the Tank Watch web site, and look at their historical results. They can look at the data in a graph format, in a table, or even download it in spreadsheet format. When they first log on, all milk plant historical information is already posted there for them. This service is only available to dairies whose milk handlers provide tank watch the data. In the Northeast that is currently only DairyLea or DairyLea affiliated cooperatives. The cost is \$9.95 per month, paid by milk check deduction. If you are curious, check out www.tankwatch.biz on the web. You can register on the site and look at a two demonstration herds; DEMO1, PW=0001 and DEMO2=002.

FIGURE 1

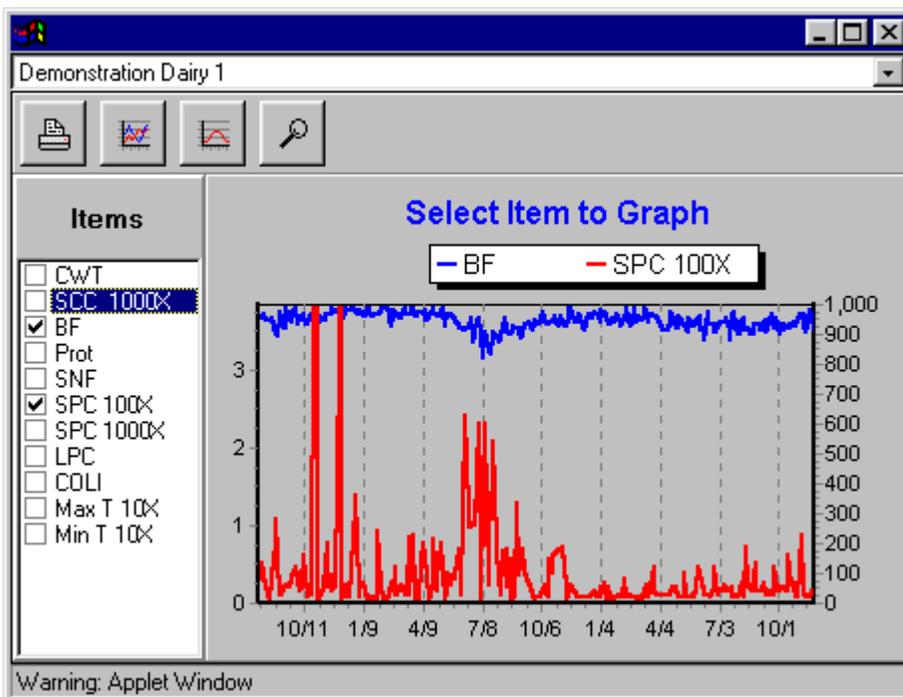


FIGURE 1. Tank Watch Graph illustrating spike in standard plate count a year ago. Results are monitored and displayed over time.

Feed Watch, advanced feed monitoring

Now is a great time to think about making improvements in your feeding system.

One way to track feed inventories and limit feeding costs is with Feed Watch, the next level in feeding management for your dairy business.

- **Feed accurately.** Every feeding, every day of the week. Powerful software combines with a "high bright" 30-inch display to give feeders the tools they need to feed the precise recipe every time. These tools also give feeders the opportunity to monitor and improve their own skills.
- **Minimize variation.** Without having control of the feeding system, feed mixes and dry matter can vary with each feeding and with different feeders. Feed Watch minimizes this variation, and takes some of the guesswork out of production changes.
- **Control inventories/control costs.** With a system in place to track feed inventories, you can make adjustments before a situation becomes critical. Feed Watch can also be set up to automatically trigger re-ordering, making your feeding program run even more efficiently.
- **Reduce error.** Powerful RF technology allows real time information to be shared between the office PC and feed truck. Make a change once at the PC, and it is sent over to the feed truck automatically for the feeder to implement.

For questions, ordering information, or to receive a complimentary Feed Watch demo CD, contact Dairy One at 1.800.344.2697, extension 2154 or e-mail dmr@dairyone.com. Feed Watch software is priced independently of the installation so you can install it, or hire us to do it.

Managed well, your feeding system could be a real source of increased profits and improved efficiency in your business.

Five Things You Can Get On Test Day, For FREE.

One of the advantages of using Dairy One services is the wide range of reports available on test day. Dairy One technicians can easily generate the following reports at no additional cost.

When run regularly and monitored, these commands will help you increase the value of your Dairy One service.

- **Cow Value**
Puts a dollar value on each animal and its pregnancy to help with the decision to replace, breed, or even treat an animal.
- **Monitor**
Tracks key herd performance indicators by creating current snapshots of herd results. Run this monthly.
- **Bredsum\e**
This pregnancy rate determination has changed the way we evaluate a herd's reproductive performance by showing the rate at which heats are being detected and converted into pregnancies.
- **Bull Pens**
The pregnancy rate analysis (bredsum\e) discussed above can also tell you how effective your bulls are, but you must have bull pens setup and identified in your cowfile. We can help you hold bullpen cows off your vet list for a fixed number of days after being examined and not determined pregnant.
- **Events\2SI**
Prompts for specific events in a specific date range.