

Have your own, In-House Dairy Comp Meeting!

This year, instead of Dairy Comp 305 users coming to us for a meeting, we are offering to go to you. Schedule personal Dairy One instruction for you and your employees. Choose one or more of the modules listed below. Each two-hour session is \$150 and can include up to 4 farm employees. All of our training programs assume you are using the newest release of Dairy Comp 305 (version W04.010405).

We'll come to your farm, vet practice, or office, and work with your employees, on your computer with your cowfile.

Meetings will occur over the next several months. For scheduling purposes, we ask that you respond with your intent to have a meeting, and the topic module(s) of your choice by **April 15th, 2005**.

Dairy Comp 305 On-Site User Meeting Topic Modules

Each one is approximately two hours.

Dairy Comp Basics, Soup to Nuts

Review the structure of Dairy Comp 305 including Cowcards, Items, Events and Commands. Learn how to build specific reports from the command line and then save, and run them from your menus. This is a popular topic for all skill levels from a typical user to those looking to master the most powerful Dairy Comp functions.

Daily Milk Information

Use the Parlor command to review any of the last three milkings' adherences to protocols. Make better use of flow rate information to review the changes in production by milking and if relevant, by pen. See how your parlor performance has changed over the last couple of years. Every electronic meter system is different, but we can help you be sure you are making the most of the information from your particular system. We also will cover specific commands for monitoring fresh cows and sick cows based on the daily milk weights.

Dairy Herd Reproduction

We will show you sound methods to summarize and monitor your herd's reproduction including using Dairy Comp 305's special Breeding Summary functions, "up close" monitoring capabilities, and even be sure the vet list is bringing all of the right animals into your regular vet check. Command topics include Graph, Bredsum, Events, and Monitor.

Milk Quality/Udder Health

Somatic Cell results help you track your herd's mastitis infection dynamics. Are more animals newly "infected" this month than "cured"? How are your fresh cows calving? What can you summarize about your heifer program and dry cow program effectiveness? If applicable, we'll even help you integrate culture results into your Dairy Comp data file.

Protocols, Setup, and Hospital Lists

We'll review your written protocols and show you how to incorporate them into your Dairy Comp program. This module includes setting Milk and Beef Withholding dates, and creating practical and reliable hospital treatment lists. Defined, written protocols are a pre-requisite.

Cow Value

How many times do you stop and wonder, "Should we breed this cow another time?" or "Should we treat her for this new problem? Is it a good investment?" Cow value is the module that literally puts a dollar value on each adult relative to replacing her with an average springing heifer. It takes into account your herd's production and overall performance along with each animal's circumstance to project her future production potential.

Monitoring and Evaluating Herd Performance

How is your herd performing right now, and how is performance changing overall? In this module, we show you how to use a variety of Dairy Comp functions to get and keep a good sense of how your herd is changing.

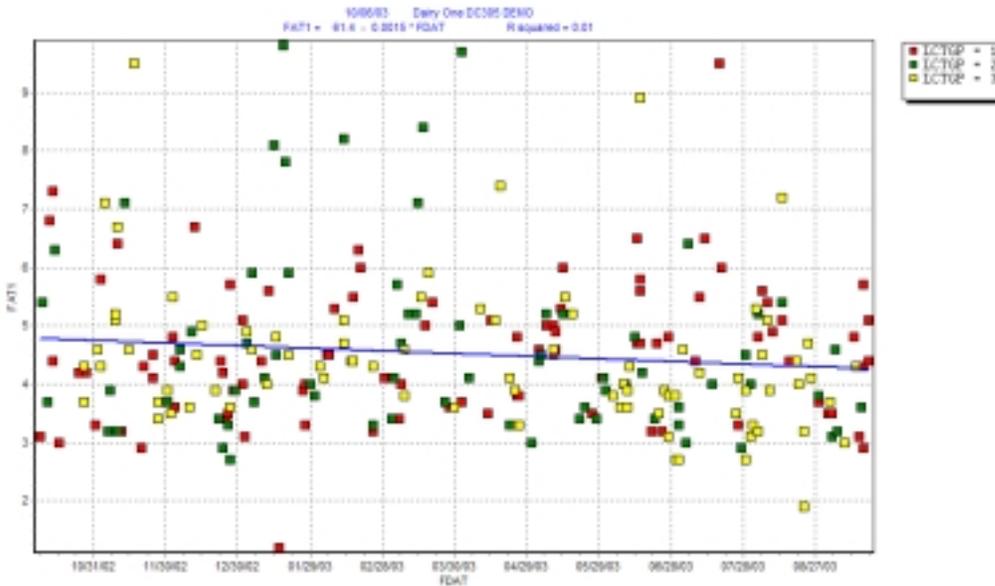
If you have questions, or would like more information, please contact your Dairy One farm service technician, or call 1.800.344.2697.

How are healthy animals calving?

Increasingly dairies are tracking disease incidence and implementing diagnostic protocols. One indication that works independently of how the dairy records their disease information is the test day fat percentage. First Test Day ME helps us get a feel for how many animals freshen sick. First Test Day Percent Fat can also sometimes help zero in on animal health at calving. Looking at the first test day fat by month of calving may help us understand how the cows are making the transition from their dry period back into high production.

First Test Day Fat Percentage by Fresh Date.
 GRAPH FAT1 BY FDATE LCTGP FOR FDATE>-365\BR

(B includes both dead and alive animals, the R invokes the regression line).



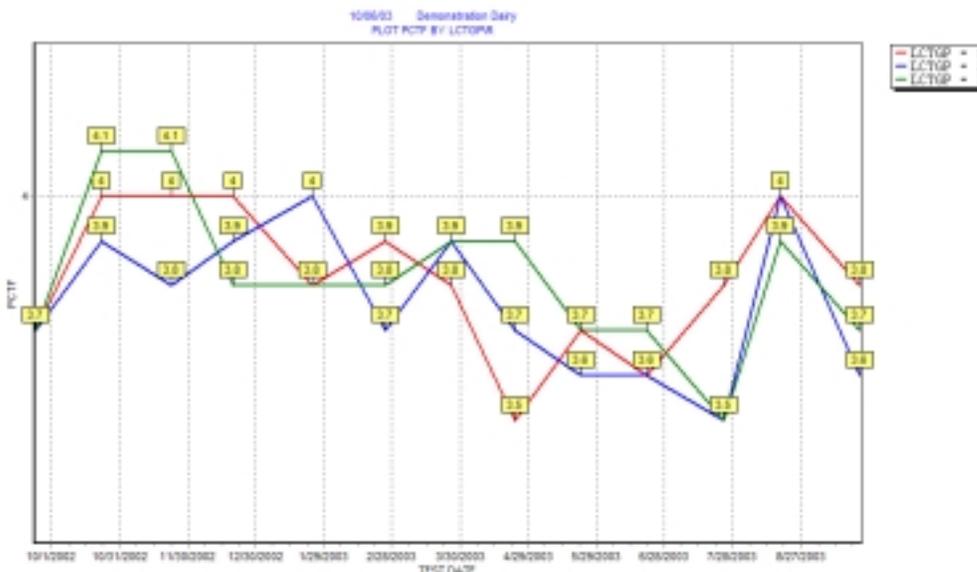
The "FAT1" graph serves as another screening tool to find potential metabolic imbalances in fresh cows, and adds a bit of historical perspective.

This herd's "Fat1" shows that recently fresh Holsteins have reasonably typical fat percentages although previous months there were clusters of higher first test day fats. That suggests that animals calving recently, are likely in a better metabolic state than those that calve with very high, or very low fat.

Higher than "normal" butterfat in individual Fresh cows can be a sign of metabolic difficulties. These cows are usually in a state of extremely rapid weight loss, and often have a history of metabolic problems such as ketosis, fatty liver, and/or displaced abomasums. Clearly defined thresholds for suspect Fats are not set, but clusters of fresh animals with a fat1 percentage higher than 5.5 may merit further investigation. Low fat tests can mean acidosis, or show animals that had other metabolic problems but have run out of body condition.

We can look at the herd average percentage fat by lactation group and determine that this herd has not had any overall abnormal swings in fat test. It is clear that there was a downward trend in average fat from October through July that affected all lactation animals.

PLOT PCTF BY LCTGP



"left clicking" on the line will force it to display the values it is graphing.