

## DAIRY ONE HIGHLIGHTS REPRODUCTIVE REPORT

Part 1 of a two part series.

### Why do we care about reproduction?

We care because it means more money. The correlation is a direct one. Not only are pregnant cows worth more, but the sooner we get cows bred and confirmed pregnant, the less we spend on all the things we do along the way; heat detection, prosteglendins, and semen to name a few.

### Outlyers, not averages

Getting cows bred and getting cows pregnant is a big challenge on many dairies. How do you determine how successful your reproductive program is? In most cases, particularly on traditional operations, looking at average reproduction values could be misleading. Instead of the average try focusing on the "outlyers". These are cows who have been open a long time, those cows who have been bred several times, and those cows that may have missed heats. These are the animals that need attention.

### Critical animals are first

Available through Dairy One, the reproductive management report gives an overview of reproductive performance in your herd. It identifies the animals that you need to take action on, putting the most critical animals at the top of the list. The report is sorted by calving date and days open until a breeding is recorded, then the list is sequenced by last breeding date. All adult animals are listed for a complete reproductive inventory.

The report provides individual as well as summary information and will:

1. help to identify areas of opportunity
2. identify problem cows
3. provide information to help determine causes of poor reproductive performance

TABLE 1: Reproductive Management Report DHI-350 (abbreviated)

Index #	Barn Name	Calved Mo Day Yr	LACT #	Calv Ease	Days Open	Pro-Calving Interval	Breed @60 days	Bred Mo Day Yr	Days to 1st Brd	# Srv	Days btwn breedings	Srv Sire Reg	Ck Preg 38 days	Dry Off	Due if Preg	Remarks
730	Star	6/23/02	2	1	103	12.6	8/22	10/04/02	103	1		1H6149	11/11	5/12	7/11	
740	Kerry	6/20/02	2	1	106	12.7	8/19	10/04/02	106	1		1H6149	11/11	5/12	7/11	
749	Polly	6/19/02	2	2	107	12.7	8/18	10/04/02	107	1		1H6149	11/11	5/12	7/11	
796	Meg	6/11/01	1	3	480	25.0	8/10	10/04/02	100	8	54	7H7267	11/11	5/12	7/11	
802	Edith	4/15/02	1	1	172	14.9	6/14	10/04/02	67	3	53	7H5708	11/11	5/12	7/11	
813	Amy	2/15/02	1	5	231	16.8	4/14	10/04/02	67	4	55	1H6149	11/11	5/12	7/11	
814	Fern	6/22/02	1	4	104	12.6	8/21	10/04/02	104	1		39H709	11/11	5/12	7/11	
816	Norma	6/27/02	1	1	99	12.5	8/26	10/04/02	99	1		7H5708	11/11	5/12	7/11	
818	Liona	6/22/02	1	3	104	12.6	8/21	10/04/02	104	1	13	7H5708	11/11	5/12	7/11	
1079	Katie	7/02/02	4	4	94	12.3	8/31	10/04/02	94	1	12		11/11	5/12	7/11	
727	Jen	1/08/02	1	4	269	18.1	3/09	10/04/02	101	4	56		11/11	5/12	7/11	
666	Rain	7/26/00	3	2												Not bred
269	Indy	11/16/00	1	1												Not bred
716	Lacy	1/22/01	1	3												Not bred
800	Runt	1/12/02	1	1	278	18.3	3/13		97	4	42					
797	Peach	1/13/02	2	1	277	18.3	3/14		72	4	53		Open			
1141	Lonnie	2/14/02	1	1	245	17.2	4/15		78	1	17		Open			
823	Shea	2/16/02	2	2	243	16.6	4/17	9/30/02	104	2	98	Heat	Open			

Part I will review the individual cow listing.

**Column 1** – Index number or ID of the cow. This is the number used by Dairy Comp and used by the technician to identify each animal.

**Column 2** – Barn Name. This is the barn name or number that is referred to on the farm. Preferably, ID and Barn Name are the same.

**Column 3** – Calved is the date of the most recent calving. Cows are listed by calving date and thus days open until the cow has an active breeding recorded. If a cow is bred and later determined open she will again be on the list by days open. OPEN will appear in the CHECK PREG column.

**Column 4** – Lactation Number (Lact. No.) is the number of times that a cow has calved including the current lactation.

**Column 5** – Calving Ease (Calv. Ease) is the ease score (if reported) for the cow's last calving. The score will be a number between 1 and 5 where 1 = no problem, 2 = slight problem, 3 = needed assistance, 4 = considerable force and 5 = extreme difficulty.

**Column 7** – Projected Calving Interval (Proj. Calving Interval) is the projected minimum calving interval in months for cows with breeding dates and cows beyond the Voluntary Waiting Period (VWP: the period after calving that the manager waits before the first breeding). For cows with breeding dates this interval is determined using the current days open to last breeding date and the average duration of pregnancy (280 days). Cows without breeding dates, and beyond the VWP, are projected based on current days open and duration of pregnancy. If a new breeding date is entered an updated calving interval will appear. The default Voluntary Waiting Period (VWP) will be 60 days unless otherwise selected.

**Column 8** – Breed at NN Days is either 60 days after calving (default) or NN days after calving where NN is supplied by dairy producer. This is a target date for each cow to be first bred in order to maintain the current calving interval. The number of days to begin breeding is often referred to as the Voluntary Waiting Period (VWP).

**Column 9** – BRED is the last date that the cow was bred after calving. Cows with a recorded breeding are arranged in order of oldest breeding dates unless they are declared open.

**Column 10** – Days to first breeding (Days to 1st Brd) is the actual number of days open from calving to first breeding. Only cows that have been bred at least once in the current lactation will have a value.

**Column 11** – Number of Services (No. Srv) is the number of breedings since last calving. All services are reported. If the cow is bred twice or more between Dairy One test days, all breeding dates should be reported. However, only the latest breeding date will appear in the BRED column. If a cow is reported as in heat, but not rebred, the term HEAT will appear in the Service Sire column. The reported heat date will appear in the BRED column.

Next month we will look at Part II of the Reproductive Report which puts the information in a summary format. If you would like to begin receiving this report, talk to your Dairy One farm service technician, or call 1.800.344.2697, ext. 3.

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## CALVING VIEW

Wireless Camera packages sold and installed by Dairy One

Could you benefit from observing your calving pen from the house? How about recording milking parlor activity? Perhaps you might even want extra security at certain sites around the dairy.

Recently, Dairy One has begun selling and installing wireless cameras. We can either install the cameras and antennas for you, or drop ship them to your dairy operation for you to install. Generally, installation is quite simple, requiring a minimum of technical finesse. And, since the camera is wireless, there is no wire to run!

The wireless cameras are available in color or black and white. Camera packages include the camera, receiver, and if necessary an antenna. Packages are priced according to the distance needed to transmit.

Distances can be divided into two categories-less than 500 feet or greater than 500 feet (up to 3000 feet).

For more information, call Dairy One at 1.800.344.2697 or e-mail: [dmr@dairyone.com](mailto:dmr@dairyone.com).