



Test Day Reports: Relevant Info in Real Time

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Dairy One, DHIA Field Technicians often leave management reports on the farm immediately after testing the herd. These are referred to as “Test day reports” and are generated through the technician version of Dairy Comp or PCDART software. These reports have the advantage of giving you as much valuable, decision making information as possible right now.

In the days following test day, your milk samples are being transported to the lab and analyzed, and your test day data is being sent through to the processing center to be used in generating processed DHIA reports. Most, if not all herd management decisions you make using DHIA information are better made sooner, rather than later. So, if you can get that information from test day reports today, there is no reason to wait for the same information to arrive in the mail several days from now.

There are many valuable reports built directly into the Dairy Comp and PCDART herd management software programs. Your Dairy One DHI technician can modify these reports to meet your farm’s needs. Your technician also has the resources available to build custom reports based on specific criteria that you provide.

The Monitor Report

Existing reports in Dairy Comp cover reproduction, cows to dry, cows to freshen, trends in milk weights and components, etc. One popular report called Monitor, allows a herd manager to spot trends and set goals by looking at up to 45 herd parameters. The Monitor report looks at your last ten test days from a herd level perspective, showing you everything from basic information such as how many cows were in milk each test day, to detailed data including your average number of days open for cows that are currently pregnant.

The BredSum Report

The BredSum command in Dairy Comp can show different breeding summaries based on categories such as stud code, number of times bred, and day of the week. The most common BredSum report is pictured below and is based on a 21 day pregnancy risk. The dates listed are based on a 21 day heat cycle. The second column shows the number of cows that were eligible to be bred. In order to be eligible for breeding, a cow must meet several criteria. She is not a heifer, not declared pregnant, past the voluntary waiting period, and not marked as Do Not Breed (DNB). The next column displays the number of cows that were actually bred, followed by the percentage of cows bred. In row one, on 2/2/13, fifteen (15) of the 24 eligible cows were bred, or 62%. The next column is the number of pregnancy eligible cows. Browsing through the table below, you will notice that this column typically matches the number of cows in the breeding eligible column. Simply put, if the cow is eligible to be bred, she is also eligible to become pregnant. In row one, only 23 were eligible to become pregnant because one of the breeding eligible cows was sold within the 21 day window. The Preg column indicates the number of animals that became pregnant as a result of their breeding, followed by the equivalent percentage. The last column displays how many of the breedings resulted in abortions. Knowing your pregnancy rate and being able to adjust it is crucial for the future of any dairy. George Glover, Dairy One Market Manager for Central New York, explains, “I always show dairymen the pregnancy rate and talk about the fact that getting cows pregnant has a huge effect on the number of replacements, growth within the herd, days in milk, milk production, and overall profitability.” George continues, “I looked at pregnancy by the day of the week on one farm and discovered the dairy was not getting many cows bred on a certain day when a key employee was off. Based on that information, the farm made a change in the protocols for this day of the week.” As George highlighted above, **what can appear as a simple test day report has the potential to reveal trends within your dairy that can be managed for an increased pregnancy rate, and could then lead to an increase in profitability.**

Customized Reports from your DHIA Technician

Bill Wester, a DHIA technician from Cazenovia, New York, customizes a Dairy Comp report called “The Average Milk by Pen” for many of his farms. He adds columns based on the farm’s preference. By adding columns for average fat, average protein, average somatic cell, and average lactation, one of his dairies noted a significant trend. Although 2 of the pens were receiving

Date	Br Elig	Bred	Pct	Pg Elig	Preg	Pct	Aborts
2/02/13	24	15	62	23	11	48	0
2/23/13	15	7	47	15	4	27	0
3/16/13	23	13	57	23	8	35	1
4/06/13	26	15	58	25	5	20	0
4/27/13	31	15	48	31	7	23	0
5/18/13	33	17	52	31	7	23	0
6/08/13	35	17	49	34	10	29	1
6/29/13	30	12	40	30	6	20	0
7/20/13	30	17	57	29	4	14	0
8/10/13	35	14	40	35	9	26	1
8/31/13	30	17	57	29	4	14	0
9/21/13	34	21	62	34	12	35	1
10/12/13	33	16	48	32	4	12	0
11/02/13	33	19	58	33	9	27	0
11/23/13	36	18	50	35	10	29	0
12/14/13	31	15	48	30	7	23	0
1/04/14	33	15	45	0	0	0	0
1/25/14	34	17	50	0	0	0	0
Total	479	248	52	469	117	25	4

Figure 1. Bred Sum Report with a 21 day pregnancy risk and a 50 day wait period

the exact same ration, their components differed greatly. Bill added the column displaying average lactation which showed that the pen with the low components was comprised mainly of first calf heifers. By using Bill’s report, the farm could see the need to supplement the ration for this pen since their first lactation animals were requiring additional energy for growth compared to older cows. This farm also had Dairy Comp 305 on farm software so Bill customized this report on the dairy’s computer, giving them the ability to run it at any time.

Erica Stewart, a technician from Columbia, New Jersey, created a custom cull report based on specific criteria provided by the farm. The report includes cows that are under a 40 pound production and are not pregnant. Each farm utilizes different criteria for management decisions, so talk to your technician about the criteria that will work best for the management of your cows. For example, it could be a limit on number of days open or a milk production benchmark. The data provided on test day becomes much more valuable when you can apply it to your dairy immediately, and can use it to make decisions for your specific set up.

Dan DeLorme, a technician out of Heuvelton, New York best summarizes Dairy One’s perspective on test day reports, “My advice and practice is to not just leave a report, but go over it with the dairyman and really make sure it is what they want to look at. I usually say to my dairymen that we can add or change anything you wish to see on your reports. The sky’s the limit.”

Dairy One technicians strive to provide information that helps members to make better decisions, and to make them faster. Test Day reports allow us to provide this data in real time. They also allow you the flexibility to choose what you want to look at, to help you make the best use of the information. As you communicate your decision making criteria to your DHIA technician, remember “The Sky’s the Limit!”

If you have any questions or would like customized test day reports for your farm, please contact your Dairy One technician or call 800-344-2697.