

New DHI report assists with transition cow management

A good transition cow management program is critical to profitability in a dairy herd. Successful management of dry date to 40 days after calving enables cows to begin lactations ready to meet or exceed their genetic capabilities.

For dairy producers using NorthStar's DHI Services, there is now a Transition Cow Management report that can help you focus on the logical challenges of the dry period. This report provides analysis of seven important monitors including: dry periods, first milk, fat protein ratio, udder health, reproduction, survival and stress.

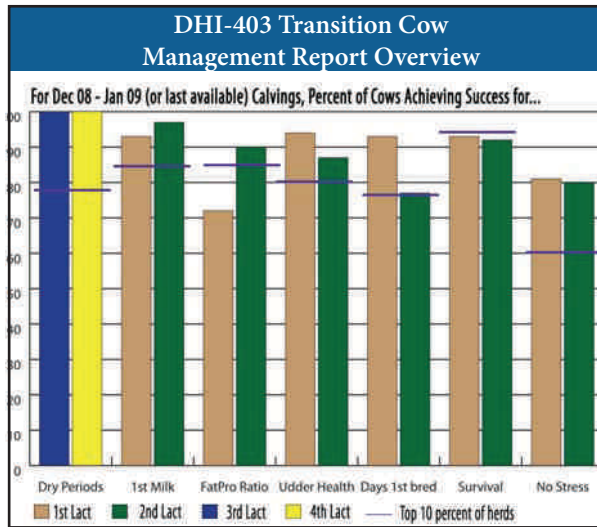
For each Management Monitor, a 100 point scale indicates the level of success. This consistent measure of performance allows a methodical and quick assessment of progress toward goals. Goals are set at the success level in each monitor achieved by the top 10 percent of herds similar in size to yours. Although the goal of each Management Monitor might be different, in all cases, a tall bar on the chart is better than a short bar. And, 100 percent means that the management team has achieved a level of management of the transition period that optimizes success.

Overview Graph

The Overview Graph of this report is a great place to start and tells you which elements of your transition cow management are working well. This graph includes one set of bars for each of the seven Management Monitors. The colored bars represent the performance for cows that calved in the most recent period. The purple line on each bar marks the performance of the top 10 percent of herds for the specific Management Monitor. Performance higher than the purple line means that your herd is doing well, and lower performance indicates an opportunity for improvement. Reviewing the report's overview graph first quickly identifies areas that deserve management attention in the most recent period.

Dry Periods

Were your dry periods the proper length? Research into shortened dry periods suggests 30 days has



The overview graph indicates which elements of your transition cow program are going well and which are areas of opportunity.

advantages. Several studies found dry periods shorter than 30 days resulted in 5 to 15 percent reduced milk production, while dry periods longer than 70 days, which are often the result of inaccurate breeding dates or poor reproductive performance, result in 10 percent less milk production. Dry periods should always be greater than 30 days and they are never profitable over 70 days.

First Milk

Are your fresh cows producing well? Cows and heifers that have low first test milk weights likely

had a problem in transition. Higher milk indicates dry matter intake is adequate and these cows should reach their potential for peak milk.

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| Sire | Pedigree | NM\$ | Milk | Rel. | Type | TPI | Rel. | SELECTED |
|-----------|---------------------------------|-------|--------|------|-------|------|------|----------|
| 7H09222 | SHOT Shottle x Ito | \$555 | +1,627 | 70 | +3.37 | 1995 | 69 | |
| 7H09255 | GIVEN Goldwyn x Mtoto | \$549 | +1,223 | 70 | +2.72 | 1907 | 70 | |
| 7H09257 | PRESIDENT Shottle x BW MARSHALL | \$568 | +809 | 70 | +3.82 | 2064 | 69 | |
| 7H09270 | REAL-DEAL Shottle x Throne | \$773 | +2,341 | 70 | +3.22 | 2223 | 69 | |
| 7H09281 | BIGSHOT Shottle x Roy | \$623 | +2,023 | 70 | +3.32 | 2056 | 70 | |
| 507H09069 | INGLES O MAN x Die-Hard | \$520 | +1,153 | 70 | +1.53 | 1869 | 69 | ✓ |
| 507H09117 | PHINEUS MR SAM x Jester | \$522 | +1,631 | 70 | +2.14 | 1844 | 70 | ✓ |
| 507H09134 | ERVING Lynch x Sam | \$595 | +1,300 | 71 | +1.78 | 1926 | 70 | ✓ |
| 507H09157 | ERNIE Shottle x DURHAM | \$456 | +1,261 | 70 | +4.14 | 2027 | 70 | ✓ |
| 507H09176 | MINISTER Shottle x Debut | \$613 | +898 | 70 | +2.26 | 2002 | 70 | ✓ |
| 507H09259 | ILIAD Shottle x Die Hard | \$455 | +1,345 | 70 | +3.02 | 1910 | 69 | ✓ |
| 507H09273 | DEE ZENITH x Outside | \$452 | +1,076 | 70 | +2.04 | 1767 | 70 | ✓ |
| 507H09307 | DREAM Goldwyn x O MAN | \$564 | +731 | 69 | +3.26 | 2051 | 69 | ✓ |
| 507H09321 | CROWN Goldwyn x O MAN | \$539 | +906 | 70 | +2.69 | 1936 | 69 | ✓ |

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