

A tool to help find ketotic cows

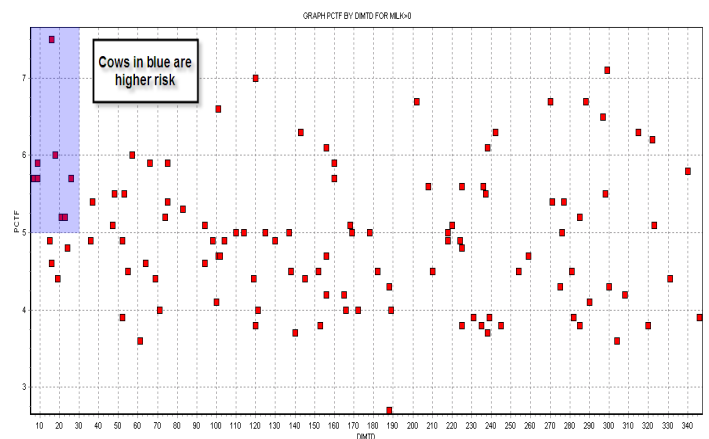
Wes Kuntz, Dairy Comp Support

Identifying ketotic cows early is critical to lactation and reproductive performance. Ketotic cows take longer to get pregnant, have lower lactation peaks, and are more prone to disease and metabolic disorders. It is imperative to find ketotic cows early to reverse and prevent the effects of ketosis. Dairy Comp has tools to find high risk cows earlier, for example looking at cows under 30 days in milk with a higher than normal fat test.

Dairy Comp 305 can target these cows with the command **L %ID Milk PCTF DIMTD FOR DIMTD < 30 PCTF > 5**. This should be run just after receiving your test day information. Now you have only a handful of cows to look at. A quick ketone milk test at the next milking will tell you whether or not these animals need any further attention.

This information can also be quickly graphed. On the command line type **GRAPH PCTF BY DIMTD FOR MILK > 0**. This will create a scatter graph of cows that were in milk on last test day (see graph below). The X axis is days in milk on test day and the Y axis is % fat. (Each square represents a cow: you can left-click on the square to bring up that cow's cow card page to get more information on her). Once again we focus on cows less than 30 dim and high fat %. The graph allows you to see what percentage of fresh cows are at risk for ketosis compared to all the fresh cows. You can left click and drag a box over a group of cows to enlarge a target area. If any of these lists or graphs are something that you would like to look at on a regular basis call Dairy Comp support to help you save it to your menu.

For SCOUT users, you can go to the **PROD** drop down menu and select **POST RECEIVE REPORT**. When the report comes up left click on the **DIMTD** abbreviation at the top left of the report. This will sort the list by days in milk on test day, with the freshest cows being on the top. Look at the cows with less than 30 dim and high fat tests; these are your suspect cows.



Calving report card

Chris Perry, Dairy Comp Support

A calving summary can be easily viewed by typing **EVENTS\3** on the command line. The following report shows you the number of freshenings per month and various calving information including % Twins, % Females and more importantly the % Stillborn (%D). The DCC column shows the number of freshening with abnormal gestation lengths.

Month	Fresh	None	Twins	%T	Male	Female	%F	Alive	Dead	%D	M:Dead	%M	F:Dead	%F	Sold	DCC
12/07	6	0	0	0	3	3	50	5	1	17	1	33	0	0	4	0
1/08	16	0	1	6	7	10	59	16	1	6	1	14	0	0	10	0
2/08	12	0	1	8	6	7	54	11	2	15	0	0	2	29	8	0
3/08	10	0	1	10	6	5	45	10	1	9	1	17	0	0	7	0
4/08	12	0	1	8	7	6	46	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0
5/08	3	0	0	0	2	1	33	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
6/08	12	0	2	17	9	5	36	12	2	14	1	11	1	20	10	1
7/08	12	0	1	8	2	11	85	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
8/08	13	0	0	0	3	10	77	11	2	15	0	0	2	20	5	1
9/08	11	0	2	18	6	7	54	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0
10/08	11	0	2	18	7	6	46	12	1	8	1	14	0	0	8	0
11/08	20	0	0	0	15	5	25	18	2	10	1	7	1	20	16	1
12/08	5	0	0	0	2	3	60	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
====	====	====	====	====	====	====	====	====	====	====	====	====	====	====	====	====
TOTAL	143	0	11	8	75	79	51	142	12	8	6	8	6	8	88	3

By looking at the %D column, one can see if there is a trend by month and by adding an "s" (to make the command **EVENTS\3S**), will allow you to look at different date ranges and more historical data. If one wants to look further into the still born rate, you can break out stillborn rate by different criteria. A common example is a command like **EVENTS\3 BY LCTGP**.

LCTGP	Fresh	None	Twins	%T	Male	Female	%F	Alive	Dead	%D	M:Dead	%M	F:Dead	%F	Sold	DCC
1	32	0	0	0	11	21	66	27	5	16	1	9	4	19	18	1
2	58	0	6	10	29	35	55	60	4	6	3	10	1	3	33	1
3	53	0	5	9	35	23	40	55	3	5	2	6	1	4	37	1
====	====	====	====	====	====	====	====	====	====	====	====	====	====	====	====	====
TOTAL	143	0	11	8	75	79	51	142	12	8	6	8	6	8	88	3

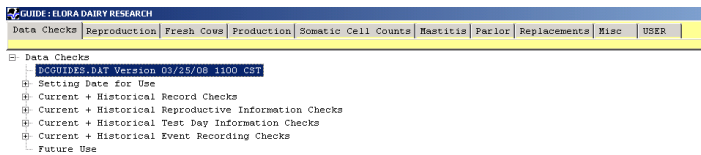
In this case one can see that the heifers are the main contributor to the higher than average stillborn rate. Since a 16% still born rate is higher than normal for heifers, that group may be an area to further focus on and potentially alter management strategies.

New and improved GUIDE command

Jeromy Ten Hag, Dairy Comp Support

Over the last year, changes have been made to a Dairy Comp module called **GUIDE**. The GUIDE has been available for a little while and the initial focus was to provide answers to questions on a herd's performance in the area of reproduction. Different questions to be answered were built in to the module; when the user clicked on a question the answer would appear based on the information contained in the cowfile.

The GUIDE has expanded to cover different areas of herd performance. To check out the revamped GUIDE, type **GUIDE** on the command line and press enter. You will notice a number of tabs along the top of the GUIDE screen which groups questions regarding several areas of herd management.



Click on the tab for your area of interest and get answers to questions you may have been wondering about. When you click on a question a list or graph will appear that gives an accurate answer. The beauty of this module is it allows you to dig deeper into the data of a herd without needing to create new commands.

Do not underestimate the value of the Data Checks section. By looking at the reports in this area, you will quickly know if you have current and up-to-date information available to do your herd analysis.

The GUIDE is a powerful tool to help monitor the performance of a dairy herd, and can be especially effective when problem solving a herd management issue for a dairy client.

Change to your test day downloads!

Since late December 2008, the file that you download will contain Leukosis and Johne's milk test results. You will continue to have access to test day results as soon as SCC and milk component data are available. Given the results for Johne's and/or Leukosis tests will be available a few days later, a second DNL file will be created which will also contain the Johne's and Leukosis information. Depending on how quickly you download your SCC and component information after test day, you may have to download a second DNL to load in your Johne's and/or Leukosis information. Please be assured that you will not be charged extra for downloading two files. We want to ensure you have access to any test day information as soon as it is available.

Profit Profiler shows interesting results

Bill Grexton, Manager, Herd Management Services

CanWest DHI has completed its pilot project on a new service called Profit Profiler. The program compares key production and financial benchmarks of a dairy business with a peer group – which usually is based on geographic location, herd size or production level. This service is now available to any dairyman in the CanWest area.

Some interesting results have appeared from the 35 herds involved so far. When comparing the 25th and 90th percentile results, total costs for the milking herd ranged from 43%–56% of milk revenue. Heifer raising costs ranged from 7%–15% of milk revenue. This shows that there is a very wide range in costs of production which means a great opportunity for dairymen to improve their cost structure and ultimately the bottom line.



From the cropping side, cost per acre for forages ranged from \$293–\$509 and the range in forage cost per cow was from 7.2%–13.1% of milk revenue. Clearly the cost of forages combined with yield can have a real impact of the overall cost to the cow. However, few of us thought that it would amount to over \$25,000 per year (70 cows with average milk production of 8,500 kg).

Labor efficiency is an important variable to consider but is poorly measured or understood. Two key labor benchmarks available are kg fat sold per person (50 hr week), and milk revenue per person. The range was very large. We found that the range in kg fat sold per person ranged from 15,400 to 33,000 and milk revenue per person was \$277,900 to \$609,500 – over \$300,000 difference per person.

Profitability ranged from 14% - 32% of total revenue. That means that for a business with total sales of \$425,000, someone was making \$76,500 more than someone else.

This service allows dairymen to compare their financial AND production benchmarks to other progressive herds. In addition, it allows a user to project the financial impact of changes in production and management. The service involves collecting information from financial, cropping, production and labor records to create over 140 benchmarks that can identify various measures of productivity and profitability.

More information about Profit Profiler Dairy Financial Analysis service can be found on our website, www.canwestdhi.com/profiler.htm, or by contacting Bill Grexton at 1-800-549-4373 ext 254.

Dairy Comp 305 training sessions in Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia will be held this winter. Watch for an invite in the mail!

Send us your ideas and questions!

The intent of this newsletter is to help you understand the program as it applies to your usage. Please provide comments or helpful hints that we can reproduce in future newsletters. Send it to Chris Perry at cperry@canwestdhi.com