The intent of this newsletter is to help you understand the program as it applies to your usage. As mentioned previously, because it contains helpful hints for improving reports or analysis, your suggestions and shortcuts will benefit others. Please provide comments or helpful hints that we can reproduce in future newsletters. Send your comments to Bill Grexton at bgrexton@canwestdhi.com.

Calving Information and Benchmarks
Bill Grexton, Herd Management Services

There is a lot of interest in getting healthier calves into the milking line as soon as possible. One of the ways to provide more heifers to the milking herd is by reducing calf mortality. Have you looked at your herds to find out the rates that exist?

Across 495 Dairy Comp 305 herds (66,541 freshenings), the average is 8% mortality in heifers. This was calculated using *Events* and Excel (to delete the unwanted columns and combine some dates.) You can use the same process to find the rate in your herd access list.

You can see if there is a trend across seasons or during the year. Is the twinning rate or death rate acceptable in your herds?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th># Fresh</th>
<th>% Twins</th>
<th>% Female</th>
<th>% Dead</th>
<th>% Dead Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan - Mar 06</td>
<td>14,981</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>47.6%</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr - Jun 06</td>
<td>15,209</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>47.8%</td>
<td>8.9%</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul - Sep 06</td>
<td>17,704</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>47.3%</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep - Dec 06</td>
<td>17,173</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>47.3%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>65,541</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>47.6%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Both Dairy Comp SCOUT and Dairy Comp 305 are now capable of storing all the records necessary to meet the Canadian Quality Milk (CQM) requirements set by each provincial marketing board.

In SCOUT, producers are prompted for the required CQM treatment information when an event is entered. Producers record a remark that enables them to identify the drug they used. It is suggested that the remark be an abbreviation of the drug followed by the number of days treated and the volume treated. For example, EXC5.13 would tell a producer that 13cc of Excenel was used for five days.

This information is automatically filed into the CQM report. This will provide the auditor with the required treatment information history. Additionally, two management lists called Cows with Beef Hold and Cows with Milk Hold can be accessed from the menu. These reports provide a list of cows that have a current beef or milk withhold date.

Those with Dairy Comp 305 can further simplify the data entry by making use of the protocol table to calculate and input the relevant withdrawal dates when a treatment is entered.

While CQM information management needs to be done on farm, this is just to keep you aware of advances with the program. Veterinarians may be asked by their clients to help them develop their treatment protocols. Dairy Comp 305 support staff will assist in answering questions about the program but provincial marketing agencies need to be contacted as to content required.

EXC5.13

Cows with Beef Hold

Cows with Milk Hold

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Continued on back
Calving Information  (Continued)

disproportionate number of animals leaving? In this case, is having 40% of
cull animals being first lactation acceptable? Not one of these animals
recovered the cost to raise them to calving. Is there a more effective way
to identify some of these before they calve? Possibly at birth?

Why do First Lactation Animals Leave?
Bill Grexton, Herd Management Services

Over a period of 12 months, 43,383 first lactation cows left CanWest DHI
herds. That is 36% of the total number of heifers that freshened. Of the total,
21% left for unknown reasons and 12.5% were sold to other dairy herds.

Reproduction, low production and udder health issues accounted for over
70% of the rest of the culls.

Cows Culled in First Lactation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feet &amp; leg problems</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mastitis /High SCC /Udder Breakdown</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low milk production</td>
<td>5.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reproductive</td>
<td>19.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slow milker</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injury/Accident</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bad temperament</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sickness</td>
<td>20.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How do your clients herds compare? A quick look at the first lactation animals
culled in the past year in each herd can be done by using the command EconE
for LACT=1 DSEXT<366 (See below).

If you want to see the percentage of animals in a given category, use the
command PCT DCODE=23 FOR LACT=1 DSEXT<366:D to show the
percentage of first lactation culled for low production (substitute dcode =
25 for mastitis or 28 for reproduction).

Are these reasons for leaving preventable? Can you assist your clients to
keep more first lactation cows and thereby be able to cull older cows that
should have left instead?

Breds, Egraph and Plot Wizard
Jeromy Ten Hag, Dairy Comp Software Support

Dairy Comp has a wizard that can help you change criteria for calculating
reports with the above commands. You must create a report first and when
it shows, the icon (circled), appears. Click to open, and the menu (breds,
shown) appears that allows you to recalculate the report with different
parameters. It is easier than trying to remember the switch codes. Try it -
you’ll like it!