DHI and Herd Management Goals - HOLSTEINS - August 2023
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Milk and Components

Parameter	Unit	Regional Average	Suggested Goal
Daily milk - milking cows	lb	74.8	**
Daily milk - all cows	lb	64.0	**
Summit milk - 1st lactation	lb	75.7	**
Summit milk - 2nd lactation	lb	94.5	**
Summit milk - 3rd+ lactations	lb	102.5	**
Peak milk - 1st lactation	lb	79	**
Peak milk - 2nd lactation	lb	99	**
Peak milk - 3rd+ lactations	lb	107	**
Rolling yearly herd average - milk	lb	23,659	**
Rolling yearly herd average - fat	lb	921	**
Rolling yearly herd average - protein	lb	732	**
Fat percent	%	3.8	≥ 3.7
Protein percent	%	3.0	≥ 3.0
Persistency after peak - 1st lactation*	%		~ 95
Persistency after peak - older cows*	%		~ 90
% 1st lactation ≤ 40 lbs on 1st test day*	%		0
% older cows ≤ 50 lbs on 1st test day*	%		0

Production Rules of Thumb
First lactation peaks should be ~75% of older cows.
First lactation 305 day ME milk should be within 500 pounds of second lactation.
Standardized 150 day milk declines > 5 pounds are indicative of a problem.

Reproduction

Parameter	Unit	Regional Average	Suggested Goal
Pregnancy rate	%	17	≥ 24
Days open	days	156	≤ 130
Projected calving interval	months	14.3	≤ 13.6
Average days to 1st service	days	96	≤ 75
Percent of all 1st services < VWP	%	13	≤ 10
Percent of all 1st services > 100 days	%	30	≤ 10
Heats observed	%	40	≥ 65
Yearly successful services	%	***	≥ 40
Successful 1st services	%	46	≥ 45
Services per pregnancy	number	2.7	≤ 2.5
Percent of herd confirmed pregnant	%	***	≥ 50
Difficult births - 1st lactation (scores 4+5)	%	1.5	≤ 5
Cows culled for reproduction	%	15	≤ 6
Abortions (actual + apparent)	%	***	≤ 5

Genetics

Parameter	Unit	Regional Average	Suggested Goal
Percent of herd bred AI	%	54	100
Percent of herd bred with AI genomic tested sires	%	***	≥ 30
Percentile rank - service sires	percentile	52	≥ 90
Cows with sire ID	%	***	100
Heifers with sire ID	%	***	100

Udder Health

Parameter	Unit	Regional Average	Suggested Goal
Average SCC score	score	2.3	≤ 3.0
Weighted average actual SCC	cells/ml	217,000	≤ 200,000
1st lactation SCS, days 1-40	score	***	≤ 2.0
Cows culled for mastitis	%	***	≤ 3
Incidence of clinical mastitis (monthly)*	cases/100 cows		≤ 3

Desirable Herd Distribution of Somatic Cell Scores

Lactation	Somatic Cell Score			Average SCS
	0-3	4-5	6+	
1	> 80%	~ 20%	0%	≤ 2.5
2	> 70%	~ 25%	< 5%	≤ 2.8
3+	> 65%	~ 30%	< 5%	≤ 3.1
Total Herd	**> 65%**	**~ 30%**	**< 5%**	**≤ 3.0**

Replacements

Parameter	Unit	Regional Average	Suggested Goal
Average age at first calving	months	25.8	22-24
Calves dead at birth	%	***	≤ 5
Mortality, birth to 3 months*	%		≤ 5
Mortality, 3 months to calving*	%		≤ 2
Average daily gain*	lbs/day		1.6-1.8
Bodyweight at 1st breeding*	% mature BW		≥ 55
Average age at first breeding*	days		~ 420
Average age at first conception*	days		~ 450
Services per pregnancy*	number		≤ 1.8
Postcalving bodyweight*	% mature BW		≥ 82

Culling

Parameter	Unit	Regional Average	Suggested Goal
Cows left herd	%	40	≤ 30
Voluntary cull rate	%	***	10-20
Involuntary cull rate	%	***	≤ 15
Cow mortality	%	17	≤ 2
Cows left herd, 1-30 days in milk*	%		≤ 4
Cows left herd, 1-60 days in milk*	%		≤ 6

Miscellaneous

Parameter	Unit	Regional Average	Suggested Goal
Average days dry	days	***	55-60
Dry periods < 40 days	%	9	0
Dry periods > 70 days	%	20	< 10
In milk on test day	%	85	85-88
Average days in milk	days	195	150-180

Data was obtained through DairyMetrics (DRMS) on August 7, 2023. Regional average includes data from VA, KY, MD, NC, TN, and WV herds.
* Information is not found on a Herd Summary DHI-202.
** Goal depends on the herd's production system.
*** Averages not available through DairyMetrics.