

The Perry Veterinary Clinic Benchmark Program



This program focuses on reproduction, production and herd health. The goal is to help evaluate farm performance by anonymously comparing your herd to other herds in the area. This information is also useful in identifying monthly trends and changes within your own herd. When issues are recognized early and adjustments made, production and profitability benefit.

Are you using your benchmark data to its full potential?

Every month, farms enrolled in the benchmark program receive several pages of valuable information. Interpreting this data may appear challenging at first, but don't let the numbers overwhelm you.

We are here to help you!

Interested in receiving "Benchmark Data" for your farm? See your herd veterinarian for more information.

Sample page from a participating farm showing trends.

Great Job Farm	6-Oct	6-Nov	6-Dec	7-Jan	7-Feb	7-Mar	7-Apr	7-May	7-Jun	7-Jul	7-Aug	3 Month Avg	6 Month Avg	12 Month Avg
Reproduction														
Vwp Heifers (# days)	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45
Heat Det Rate 1st Cycle Heifers	26	26	25	27	28	28	31	30	31	31	30	31	31	28
Heat Det Rate 2nd Cycle Heifers	37	38	37	38	39	40	38	37	40	40	41	41	39	39
First Cycle Preg Rate Heifers	61	61	60	62	63	63	66	68	68	69	69	69	68	65
2nd Cycle Preg Rate Heifers	87	86	87	86	86	86	86	85	85	84	84	84	85	86
First Cycle Conception Rate Heifers	42	42	42	42	43	46	45	44	44	44	44	44	44	43
Vwp Cows (# days)	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45	45
First Cycle Preg Rate Cows	19	20	21	21	21	22	21	21	22	23	24	24	22	21
2nd Cycle Preg Rate Cows	32	31	32	33	36	35	35	34	36	35	36	36	35	34
Heat Det Rate 1st Cycle Cows	55	55	55	54	53	53	52	52	52	52	55	54	53	53
Heat Det Rate 2nd Cycle Cows	81	81	82	83	83	84	84	85	87	85	86	86	85	84
First Cycle Conception Rate Cows	35	37	37	36	39	40	39	40	38	38	40	39	39	38
Conception Rate One Year	36	37	37	37	38	40	39	39	39	39	39	39	39	38
Conception Rate Last 60 Days Avail	31	37	40	40	45	44	41	39	42	39	38	39	40	40
Preg Rate One Year	26	35	27	27	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	28
Preg Rate Last 60 Days Data Avail.	25	27	30	28	32	34	28	30	29	28	28	28	29	29
Heat Detection One Year	69	24	69	69	69	69	68	70	69	70	69	70	69	65
Heat Detection Last 60 Days Data	74	69	70	69	68	70	69	71	69	68	66	67	69	69
% Herd DNB	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
% Bred1<40 Dim<180	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
% Bred1=40-65 Dim<180	57	60	66	64	65	66	66	68	66	63	58	61	64	64
% Bred1=66-90 Dim<180	43	40	34	35	35	34	34	32	33	36	42	39	35	36
% Bred1>90 Dim<180	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
% Herd Pregnant	49	54	54	53	55	56	56	56	55	55	54	55	55	54
Yearly Cull Rate	37	38	36	37	39	38	35	35	33	32	33	33	34	36
Yearly Cull Rate Dim<60	7	7	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	5	6	6	6	6
Monthly Cull Rate	34	66	27	30	54	21	22	25	19	28	40	34	27	33
Monthly Cull Rate Dim<60	7	10	3	1	4	4	5	6	3	10	13	12	7	6

Let's consider reproduction as an example.

Below are some definitions and goals that can be used as a starting point for interpreting your reproductive data.

There are many factors that can influence this data and skew the results making interpretation difficult.

For example, if you are using a timed breeding program in your herd, many of the values will be affected.

Your herd veterinarian will be most familiar with your farm's specific situation and they can help you develop a system for using this program to its greatest potential.

Some important definitions and general goals:

Heat Detection Rate: percent of breeding eligible cows that were bred

Goal: 60%

State Average: 57%

Conception Rate: percent of bred cows that become pregnant

Goal: 40%

State Average: 33%

Pregnancy Rate: percent of breeding eligible cows that become pregnant

Goal: >20%

State Average: 19.58%



Thank you to everyone who attended the Producers Meeting on November 6th in Mt Morris.

Dr Ted Wolf of the Perry Vet Clinic spoke about Dairy Reproduction Goals and discussed related benchmarking data.

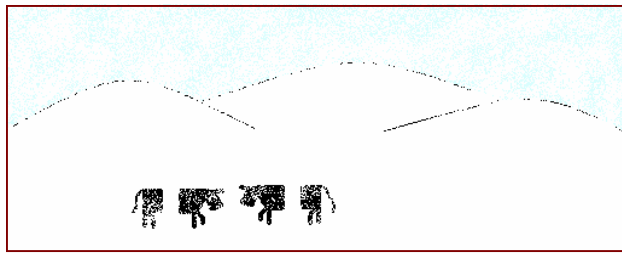
The presentation by Dr Tom Overton of Cornell University included valuable information for management of Transition Cows.



A copy of each presentation is available from the Perry Veterinary Clinic.

Please contact the Farm Store at (585) 969-9120 or ask your herd veterinarian.

Thank You to Pfizer for their support of this event.



Dutch Belted in a snowstorm

Winter Feeding of Calves

As the recent weather conditions have certainly reminded us, winter is here. During the winter weather calves housed in cold ventilated facilities such as outdoor hutches and open sided barns expend a great deal of energy staying warm. While well ventilated barns and hutches are ideal environments for raising calves, their energy requirements are greatly increased during cold weather. We can meet this increase in one of two ways.

1. Increase the total volume of milk replacer or pasteurized waste milk being fed. This increases the total number of calories being fed and increases their energy level. For cold weather (temps below 20 F), feed calves an additional 33% of milk replacer and keep the grain buckets full at all times. For extremely cold weather (under 10 F) you may need to feed up to 50% more milk replacer. Consider adding an extra feeding at mid-day to get this accomplished if necessary. It is recommended that the concentration of the milk replacer be kept the same but the total volume being fed be increased.
2. An increase in the fat % of the milk replacer being fed will increase the energy level of the calves' as well. Milk replacers should contain a minimum of 20% protein and at least 15% fat. Fat and protein should be from an animal source, not a plant source. During the winter, fat and protein % of the milk replacer can be increased. Many producers have had success with 23% and 28% protein levels, and 20% or 22% fat levels in the winter time. Whole pasteurized waste milk is an ideal feed for calves and should also be considered. It is also essential to provide fresh water for calves during the winter time to help keep them well hydrated.

A copy of all newsletters from the Perry Vet Clinic are available at: www.perryvet.com

Contact the clinic to add someone to the mailing list: maryjo@perryvet.com

To place a farm supply order:

Phone: (585) 969-9120 Fax: (585) 237-5544

Or, visit the Farm Store at Perry Vet Clinic:

Mon-Fri 7am - 5pm Sat 7am - Noon

For everyone who uses formalin tubes/vials for ear notches (BVD testing):

We have had trouble with these leaking. Please store & transport them in the upright position.

We can provide a box for this, please ask.

We appreciate your help and understanding.

Seasonal Reminder!!!

It is getting to be that time of year again where there are wide fluctuations between daytime and night time temperatures. In addition, cold weather is already here. Each year, we learn more and more about the impact of weather on teat ends. Take time now to review important aspects of your milking system such as milking procedures, vacuum levels, overmilking (at the beginning or end of milking), pulsation ratios and pulsator function, as well as liner function.

In addition, consider taking the following steps to minimize the effects of weather on your cows:

- 1) Provide windbreaks for cows walking to and from the parlor.
- 2) Feed and house cows indoors to avoid wind chill.
- 3) Ensure that teat dip is dry before cows get exposed to wind.
- 4) Consider using a winter teat dip BEFORE TEAT END CONDITION DETERIORATES.

Contact your milking equipment company or your veterinarian if you have any questions about these issues on your farm.

Season's Greetings!

The Partners and Staff of the Perry Veterinary Clinic, PLLC wish everyone a safe and healthy holiday season.

Thank you for entrusting your livestock and pets to our care.

