



Help Your Cows Reach Their Full Potential in the Milking Herd

From dry date to 40 days after calving is a critical transition period for your cows. Successful management of this period enables cows to begin lactations ready to meet or exceed their genetic capabilities.

Introducing the Transition Cow Management Report

<p>TRANSITION COW MGT DHI-403</p>	<p>55-99-9999 HENRY SMITH SMITH DAIRY FARM</p>	<p>Test Date: 03-02-2009 Processed: 03-03-2009 Page 1 of 6</p>
--	--	--

The transition period is from dry date to 40 days after calving.

Superior management of the transition period enables cows to begin lactations ready to meet or exceed genetic capabilities.

Management Monitors: These seven monitors for management of the transition period enable managers to focus on the logical challenges including dry periods, first milk, fat protein ratio, udder health, days to first breeding, survival and stress. Use these measures to identify areas of focus in transition cow management.

This report assesses information by CALVING PERIOD. Each period includes all cows that have calved. Because it is important to draw conclusions and make management decisions based on sufficient information, cows were grouped according to the average number that calved per month in the past year: 40 or more calvings = monthly, 20 to 39 = bi-monthly, and; less than 20 = quarterly. For comparison, each graph also includes the last corresponding Calving Period from the previous year.

For each Management Monitor, a 100 point scale indicates the level of success. This consistent measure of performance enables a methodical and quick assessment of progress toward goals. Goals are set at the success level in each monitor achieved by the top 10% 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% means that the management team has achieved a level of management of the transition period that optimizes success.

Please notice that two management monitors are not available as quickly as others. For Reproduction, information is not available until after Voluntary Waiting Period (VWP) plus 30 days. Survival information is not available until 60 days after calving. These graphs will display calving periods that are different from the other graphs.

Overview Which elements of Transition Cow Management are working well?

This graph includes one set of bars for each of the seven Management Monitors on the following pages. 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% herds for the specific Management Monitor. Performance higher than the purple line means that yours is a "top herd", and, lower performance indicates an opportunity for improvement. This graph should identify area(s) that deserve management attention in the most recent period. Use graphs and tables on the following pages for more information.

For Dec 08 - Jan 09 (or Last Available) Calvings, Percent of Cows Achieving Success for...

Number of Cows Calved							
	Dec-Jan	Feb-Mar	Apr-May	Jun-Jul	Aug-Sep	Oct-Nov	Dec-Jan
# 1st Lact Calved	39	27	24	23	30	33	21
# 2+ Lact Calved	54	36	37	45	54	55	55

The **DHI-403 Transition Cow Management Report** provides analysis and graphs of seven important monitors that will help you discover opportunities for improving management of the transition period.

An overview graph (shown at left) is also included which shows the yearly average for each monitor.

The **DHI-403 Transition Cow Management Report** provides analysis of seven important monitors that will help you discover opportunities for improving management of the transition period.

Seven Important Monitors

- **Dry Periods** - were they the proper length?

Studies found that dry periods < 30 days = 5% to 15% less milk; >70 days = 10% less milk
If shorter dry periods are targeted, are they being achieved? Are there too many early dries?

- **First Milk** - are 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

- **Fat Protein Ratio (FPR)** - is it appropriate on the first test?

A normal FPR of 1.0 to 1.6 on the first test indicates that cows began the lactation eating well, are maintaining bodyweight, and there are few metabolic and infectious disorders.

- **Udder Health** - what percent of the herd does not have an SCC infection on the first test?

A high percentage of infected cows on first test (SCC score >4.0) indicates problems in the dry cow treatment program or dry pen conditions.

- **Reproduction** - are cows ready to breed soon enough?

If cows have transitioned well and are healthy, and if breeders are doing their job, most cows should be bred within 30 days of the end of the voluntary waiting period.

- **Turnover** - are cows surviving to 60 days in milk?

Excessive fresh cow culling is financially devastating. Fresh cow culling is a critical measure of fresh cow health. Healthy fresh cows are likely to perform very well during lactation. Cows leaving prior to 60 days in milk most likely will not have paid for the cost of the dry period.

- **Distressed Cows** - what percent of cows were not distressed during transition period?

Stressors during the transition period can cause cows to fail during the lactation for any of the reasons listed in the chart. *In addition to a graph showing the percent of cows not distressed, a list of recently calved cows with low milk and/or high SCC is provided to highlight why the cow is considered distressed. These cows should be checked soon.*

Get the Transition Cow Management Report (DHI-403)

If you want to receive this report each test, just tell your DHI Technician to enroll you on the 403 report. The cost is 3¢ per cow per test with a \$20 maximum fee. We think you'll find it's a powerful tool to help you improve management of your transition cow program and improve early performance and profitability of your herd.