

7 Reasons to Test Every Month

Uncertain times call for even more detailed management. DHI information is valuable at any time, but especially when times are tight. Timely, accurate data enables better decisions on herd and cow strategies. It's the best way to control losses or stretch investment dollars. Costing just pennies per cow, test day pays for itself quickly!

Shorter testing intervals make it easier to monitor and manage:

1 Each Cow's Value

- Cows peak at 40-100 days in milk; skipped tests flatten some lactation curves and reduce value of cow-to-cow comparisons.
- Monthly tests improve lact. predictions, especially early, peak, and late lactations.

2 Early Lactation Cows

- Need first test within 30 days to know:
- Is dry treatment working? (SCC, Cures, Chronic Cows, New Infections)
 - Are cows healthy and comfortable? (SCC, milk production)
 - Any signs of Ketosis in fresh cows? (fat-protein ratio)
 - Are dry cow and early lactation rations adequate? (early lact. milk, fat, protein)

First test must be within 90 days for lactations to be used in genetic evaluations. If first lactation misses 90 day test, it and later lactations will not be used.

3 Peaking Milk

- Is peak as high as expected? (Peak Milk)
- How do comparisons/progressions look compared to the same season last year and within lactation groups?

4 Late Lactation Cows

- How or should I dry-treat this cow? (SCC)
- Is milk production too high to dry off this cow now?

5 Ration Changes

- Was there a milk, fat or protein response?
- Is it time to change rations?

6 Roll Call

- How many cows came into the parlor?
- Who is missing and why?
- Are cows in the correct pens?

7 Items Validated by DRMS

- Are fresh, breeding, preg dates accurate?
- Are cow and heifer IDs accurate?
- Is pedigree info recorded and available for CDCB and Breed Organizations?

Contact your technician or DHIA office to discuss special precautions or optional testing procedures that may be available to help you avoid missing a test.