

DHI Interpretation Worksheet

Date Completed _____

Based on Test Date _____

You will need your Consultant Summary for this worksheet. To follow along with the Sample Farm, you will need the Sample Farm Consultant Summary.

Box A : Peak and Persistency

1. Sample Farm Production Index for 1st Lactation Heifers = _____

My Farm Production Index for 1st Lactation Heifers = _____

The 1st Lactation production index should be higher than that for other cows.

2. Peak Ratio for Sample Farm (1st lactation / others) = _____

My Farm Peak Ratio = _____

.75 - .80 is the industry standard. Note: If this number is lower than .75, heifers may still be doing well, but other cows may be doing great.

3. Sample Farm Peak Milk for 1st Lactation heifers = _____

Sample Farm Peak Milk for 3+ Lactation Cows = _____

My Farm Peak Milk for 1st Lactation heifers = _____

My Farm Peak Milk for 3+ Lactation Cows = _____

Every pound of peak milk is worth 300 pounds in a heifer and 220 pounds in a cow.

4. Sample Farm Days in Milk (DIM) Peak 1st Lactation Heifers = _____

Sample Farm DIM Peak for 3+ Lactation Cows = _____

My Farm DIM Peak for 1st Lactation Heifers = _____

My Farm DIM Peak for 3+ Lactation Cows = _____

Most herds peak at around 75 days. An early peak indicates poor body condition.

2. Sample Farm Percentage of Cows with 7, 8 or 9 Linear Score = _____
 My Farm Percentage of Cows with 7, 8 or 9 Linear Score = _____

7, 8 or 9 Linear Scores indicate severe mastitis infections. This number should be very low.

3. Sample Farm SCC Linear Score for 1st Lactation Heifers = _____
 My Farm SCC Linear Score for 1st Lactation Heifers = _____

This number should be lower than the linear score for 2nd and 3rd Lactation cows.

4. Sample Farm Percentage of All Cows with Linear Scores less than 4 = _____
 (Add columns 0,1 and 2,3)
 My Farm Percentage of All Cows with Linear Scores less than 4 = _____
 (Add columns 0,1 and 2,3)

The goal is a linear score of less than 5 for 90% of the herd.

Box E – Left Side Changes in SCC Status

The Fresh vs. Last Dry Off side of this box indicates changes occurring in the herd from lactation to lactation.

1. Sample Farm Percent Cure Rate = _____
 Sample Farm Percent New Infections = _____

 My Farm Percent Cure Rate = _____
 My Farm Percent New Infections = _____

The cure rate should be higher than the rate of new infections to be making progress. A goal for new infections is to have less than 15%.

Box E – Right Side Changes in SCC Status

The right side of this box indicates changes in the SCC levels since the last test date.

1. Sample Farm Percent Cure Rate = _____
 Sample Farm Percent New Infections = _____

 My Farm Percent Cure Rate = _____
 My Farm Percent New Infections = _____

2. Sample Farm Days in Milk = _____
 My Farm Days in Milk = _____

The goal for Days in Milk is about 190 days or fewer.

3. Sample Farm MLM Last Test = _____ Average = _____
 My Farm MLM Last Test = _____ Average = _____

Compare to any time period to evaluate herd trends and/or management changes.

Box I Inventory

1. Sample Farm Total Number of Cows = _____
 Sample Farm Total Number of Youngstock = _____
 My Farm Total Number of Cows = _____
 My Farm Total Number of Youngstock = _____

Youngstock numbering at least 80% of total cows is generally required to maintain herd size without purchasing heifers. Herd expansions affect this number.

2. Sample Farm Age at 1st Lactation = _____
 My Farm Age at 1st Lactation = _____

The goal is to have heifers freshen at 2 years of age or less depending on size. The Minnesota average is 2 years, 3 months.

3. Sample Farm Age for Youngstock = _____
 My Farm Age for Youngstock = _____
 Sample Farm Age for Cows = _____
 My Farm Age for Cows = _____

12 – 16 month old average for youngstock and 3 ½ to 4 ½ year old average age for cows may be reasonable.

Box J Reproduction Summary

1. Sample Farm Cows in Breeding Herd = _____
 Sample Farm Cows Pregnant = _____
 My Farm Cows in Breeding Herd = _____
 My Farm Cows Pregnant = _____

The goal is to have 50% of the herd pregnant at all times.

2. Sample Farm Pregnancy Rate = _____
My Farm Pregnancy Rate = _____

The goal is a pregnancy rate of 20% or greater. There is a value of \$25 - \$35 per point per head per year with diminishing returns occurring above 22%.

3. Sample Farm Calving Interval = _____
My Farm Calving Interval = _____

Calculated by breeding records. 14.5 months is about average with 13.8 months as a goal.

4. Sample Farm Management Calving Interval = _____
My Farm Management Calving Interval = _____

Calculated using test day DIM and average days dry.

Box K Herd Genetic Profile

1. Sample Farm Service Sires Net Merit \$ and rank = _____, and _____
My Farm Service Sires Net Merit \$ and rank = _____, and _____

Higher numbers are better here. Higher numbers for the younger animals as compared to older cows is good.

Net merit \$ considers milk, fat, protein, SCC and herd life relative to the industry.
% rank is the percentile ranking compared to the industry.

Box L Cows Entering and Leaving the Herd

Note: Number left includes deads. Average death loss is about 7%.

1. Sample Farm Annual Turnover Rate = _____
My Farm Annual Turnover Rate = _____

The goal is 30% or less.

Note: Cull rate example:

100 cow herd with 45 cows leaving herd = $45/(100+45) = 31\%$ cull rate

Turnover rate:

100 cow herd with 45 cows leaving herd = $45/100 = 45\%$ annual turnover rate