

A tool to help find ketotic cows

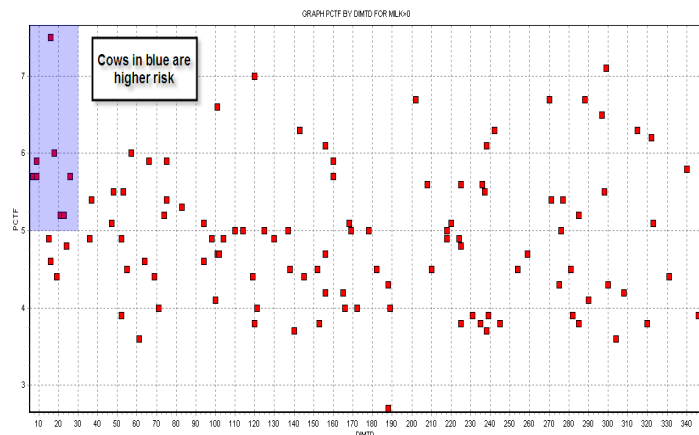
Wes Kuntz, Dairy Comp Support

Identifying ketotic cows early is critical to lactation and reproductive performance. Ketotic cows take longer to get pregnant, have lower lactation peaks, and are more prone to disease and metabolic disorders. It is imperative to find ketotic cows early to reverse and prevent the effects of ketosis. Dairy Comp has tools to find high risk cows earlier, for example looking at cows under 30 days in milk with a higher than normal fat test.

Dairy Comp 305 can target these cows with the command **L %ID Milk PCTF DIMTD FOR DIMTD < 30 PCTF > 5**. This should be run just after receiving your test day information. Now you have only a handful of cows to look at. A quick ketone milk test at the next milking will tell you whether or not these animals need any further attention.

This information can also be quickly graphed. On the command line type **GRAPH PCTF BY DIMTD FOR MILK > 0**. This will create a scatter graph of cows that were in milk on last test day (see graph below). The X axis is days in milk on test day and the Y axis is % fat. (Each square represents a cow: you can left-click on the square to bring up that cow's cow card page to get more information on her). Once again we focus on cows less than 30 dim and high fat %. The graph allows you to see what percentage of fresh cows are at risk for ketosis compared to all the fresh cows. You can left click and drag a box over a group of cows to enlarge a target area. If any of these lists or graphs are something that you would like to look at on a regular basis call Dairy Comp support to help you save it to your menu.

For SCOUT users, you can go to the **PROD** drop down menu and select **POST RECEIVE REPORT**. When the report comes up left click on the **DIMTD** abbreviation at the top left of the report. This will sort the list by days in milk on test day, with the freshest cows being on the top. Look at the cows with less than 30 dim and high fat tests; these are your suspect cows.



How to track missed heats

Ron Hurtubise, Dairy Comp Support

There is a way that you can track missed heats in your herd management software so that you can be reminded when she is due to come back into heat again. Setting up SCOUT or 305 is virtually the same, and very easy to do. When you see blood, do the following entries in your Dairy Comp:

Go to **Events1** (for SCOUT), or **Daily Events Entry** and select **Heat not bred**, and select the cow that had blood. Back-date the event date by two days (as this is when she would have been in heat). In the **Remark Field**, enter the word **BLOOD**.

The **Heat Report** should have the **REMARK Item** added to the report. Please contact Dairy Comp Support if you need help doing so.

To view the **Heat Report**, go to **RPR+CUL** or **Mgmt Reports**, down to **Heat Report**, press enter and you will get cows on this report marked as in heat or missed heat 18-24 days ago, or 39-45 days ago.

Note: If you enter an event with a different remark for that same animal after you recorded a remark of blood, it will only display the latest remark in the heat report, so the remark BLOOD will not appear, but the last remark will.

Managing lameness in your herd

Valerie Holbech, Dairy Comp Support

Lameness can have a detrimental effect on the performance of a dairy cow and overall economics of the dairy farm.

By using Dairy Comp a producer can record Lameness and Hoof trimming events; set-up hoof trimming schedules; and monitor lameness on a herd basis to observe trends and areas to focus on.

To enter in lameness go to **Events2** (for SCOUT), or **Health Event Entry** and select **Lameness**. You will be prompted to select a cow and enter items such as the **Date** of diagnosis and remark. Remarks could be used to identify the lameness issue. Using consistent remarks for lameness issues will make monitoring hoof health issues at a herd level much easier. Dairy Comp can be set up to prompt you to enter a **Treatment Protocol** which tracks medication used and Milk/Meat withdrawal times.

It is also a good idea to record all hoof trimming events. From the drop-down menu **Events1** (for SCOUT), or **Health Event Entry** select **Footrim** (again, you will be prompted to enter items such as a **Date** and a **Remark**). An example of a footrim remark would be FtRot RR (Foot Rot on the Rear Right Foot). This is a fast and easy way to track individual cows for both maintenance and treatment foot trims.

LAMENESS...

In SCOUT under the Misc drop-down menu, you will find a **Foot Trim List**. This list can be sorted by items such as DIM, or DCC, to determine what cows are in need of a trim.

Using Dairy Comp 305, a dairyman can schedule customized **Hoof Trimming Lists**. These lists can be designed to include both cows that are *Flagged for Hoof Trimming*, and cows that are *Scheduled for Maintenance Hoof Trimming*. By working with your Dairy Comp Support Team, a custom Hoof Trimming Schedule can be set up for your dairy farm.

Once you have committed to recording both **Lameness** and **Footrim** events, it will be possible to monitor lameness on your farm from a whole herd perspective.

Two examples of **Lameness Reports** that are commonly used using the Events Table are **tracking lameness by month, or by DIM** (Dairy Comp 305).

1. Tracking lameness by month in SCOUT

- From the Misc drop-down menu, select **Monthly Events**. This report shows lameness on a per month basis

2. Tracking lameness by DIM in Dairy Comp 305

- Type **EVENTS** at the command line then select **Option #6 – Table by DIM**. (You can always click on the individual numbers to see what cows are in each group.)

| Event | Total | <30 | 60 | 90 | 120 | 150 | 180 | 210 | 240 | 270 | 300 | 330 | >330 |
|---------|-------|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| FRESH | 422 | 422 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| OK | 24 | 0 | 2 | 12 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| RECK | 7 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| HEAT | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| BRED | 1217 | 0 | 1 | 192 | 263 | 135 | 95 | 78 | 44 | 28 | 16 | 5 | 360 |
| PREG | 447 | 0 | 0 | 74 | 85 | 53 | 32 | 26 | 14 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 153 |
| OPEN | 640 | 0 | 1 | 109 | 148 | 68 | 56 | 44 | 24 | 12 | 7 | 0 | 171 |
| PREV | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 |
| DRY | 289 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 70 | 106 | 107 |
| ABORT | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| DNB | 27 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| SOLD | 143 | 26 | 14 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 7 | 58 |
| FOOTRIM | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| PGF | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| DA | 30 | 27 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| KETOSIS | 27 | 23 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| LAME | 254 | 27 | 17 | 21 | 22 | 17 | 25 | 14 | 21 | 21 | 19 | 23 | 27 |
| MAST | 16 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

Change to your test day downloads!

Since late December 2008, the file that you download will contain Leukosis and Johne's milk test results. You will continue to have access to test day results as soon as SCC and milk component data are available. Given the results for Johne's and/or Leukosis tests will be available a few days later, a second DNL file will be created which will also contain the Johne's and Leukosis information. Depending on how quickly you download your SCC and component information after test day, you may have to download a second DNL to load in your Johne's and/or Leukosis information. Please be assured that you will not be charged extra for downloading two files. We want to ensure you have access to any test day information as soon as it is available.

Dairy Comp 305 training sessions in ON, MB, SK and BC will be held this winter. Watch for an invite in the mail!

Profit Profiler shows interesting results

Bill Grexton, Manager, Herd Management Services

CanWest DHI has completed its pilot project on a new service called Profit Profiler. The program compares key production and financial benchmarks of a dairy business with a peer group – which usually is based on geographic location, herd size or production level. This service is now available to any dairyman in the CanWest area.

Some interesting results have appeared from the 35 herds involved so far. When comparing the 25th and 90th percentile results, total costs for the milking herd ranged from 43%–56% of milk revenue. Heifer raising costs ranged from 7%–15% of milk revenue. This shows that there is a very wide range in costs of production which means a great opportunity for dairymen to improve their cost structure and ultimately the bottom line.

From the cropping side, cost per acre for forages ranged from \$293–\$509 and the range in forage cost per cow was from 7.2%–13.1% of milk revenue. Clearly the cost of forages combined with yield can have a real impact of the overall cost to the cow. However, few of us thought that it would amount to over \$25,000 per year (70 cows with average milk production of 8,500 kg).

Labor efficiency is an important variable to consider but is poorly measured or understood. Two key labor benchmarks available are kg fat sold per person (50 hr week), and milk revenue per person. The range was very large. We found that the range in kg fat sold per person ranged from 15,400 to 33,000 and milk revenue per person was \$277,900 to \$609,500 – over \$300,000 difference per person.

Profitability ranged from 14% - 32% of total revenue. That means that for a business with total sales of \$425,000, someone was making \$76,500 more than someone else.

This service allows dairymen to compare their financial AND production benchmarks to other progressive herds. In addition, it allows a user to project the financial impact of changes in production and management. The service involves collecting information from financial, cropping, production and labor records to create over 140 benchmarks that can identify various measures of productivity and profitability.

More information about Profit Profiler Dairy Financial Analysis service can be found on our website, www.canwestdhi.com/profiler.htm, or by contacting Bill Grexton at 1-800-549-4373 ext 254.

Dairy Comp 305 and Scout now registering colored dairy breeds

Recent changes were made to the processing of electronic registrations file to enable producers to register colored dairy breeds through Dairy Comp products. Since all breedings and freshenings are already recorded in the program, registering can be as simple as selecting a calf and adding in a long name. If this is of interest to you, please contact Dairy Comp Support to help you get started.

Send us your ideas and questions!

The intent of this newsletter is to help you understand the program as it applies to your usage. Please provide comments or helpful hints that we can reproduce in future newsletters. Send it to Chris Perry at cperry@canwestdhi.com