

Topic of the Month

Days Dry

I really like looking at simple things that dairies can do to improve their efficiency and profitability. In the last few months, the dry period has been on my radar.

My specific recommendation about the dry period is simple-hit your target. That's it. Nothing overly complicated. No added expense. Target a 60 day dry period and then make sure the cows get it.

Of course, people want to know if they can go with a 40 day dry period and get a little extra milk out of the cows. Telling people to give the cows at least 60 days can be a hard sell- sort of like telling people not to breed cows that come into heat at 40 days in milk. But I think it falls along the lines of tripping over dollars to pick up pennies.

The more herd data I look at, the more I am convinced that targeting a 60 day dry period and achieving it has a profound impact on peak milk in the subsequent lactation. In fact, the difference in peak milk for a few herds that I looked at recently was around 10 lb between cows that achieved their targeted dry period and cows that did not. Ten pounds of peak milk over the course of a lactation adds up to enough milk to make a lot of effort to ensure that the cows get the dry period they need.

Commodity Futures Prices

As of June 30, 2022

Corn (May)	\$7.44/bu
Soybean Meal (May)	\$469.90/ton
Milk (Class III)	\$22.53/cwt
Beef (Live cattle)	\$138.00/cwt

Practice News

- **Please join us in welcoming our new associate-** WOVC is pleased to announce that we have hired an associate veterinarian to start in August. Dr. Meghan Sanders grew up working on a dairy and after earning her DVM from Ohio State, she did an internship and has been working in private practice. She is eager to join us in our work to improve the health and productivity of the dairies we serve.
- **Update on drop-shipping-** The company that handles our drop shipping and online pharmacy order has started to add a \$10 shipping charge to orders under \$200. Orders over \$200 will continue with free shipping. Please plan your ordering accordingly.
- **Fair season is upon us-** Please call the office to schedule health inspection appointments for fair animals. Health charts are normally good for 30 days; however, swine are required to be inspected in a shorter window prior to the fairs. Last minute requests for health inspections might not be able to be fulfilled. Please call early and get on the schedule now.
- **The Cat with Many Names-** If you've visited the office in the last few months, you may have met our office cat. He has been called a lot of things but doesn't have an official name. He joined our staff as Carol but when we realized that she was a he, it became Carl, but he has also been called Brandon and Webster. If you'd like to suggest a name, let Lori know the next time you call the office and if there's enough interest, we'll take a poll to give the kitty a name.