

**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.

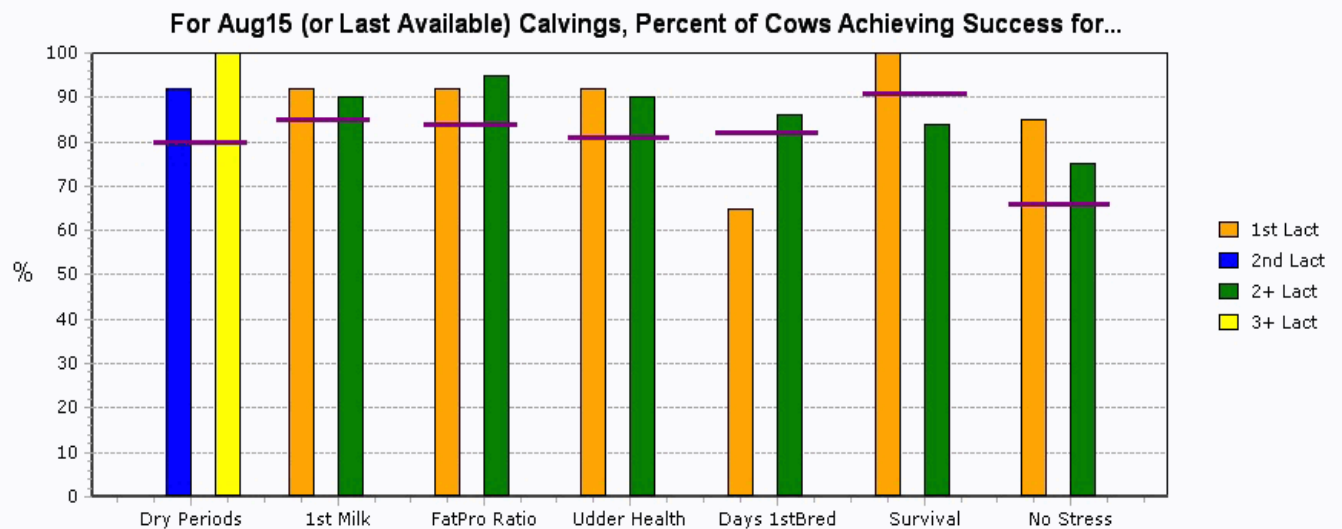
This report assesses information by CALVING PERIOD. Each period includes all cows that have calved. Because it is important to draw conclusions and make management decisions based on sufficient information, cows were grouped according to the average number that calved per month in the past year: 40 or 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 all graphs except Fat Protein Ratio and Udder Health, the numbers of cows assessed in each period are summarized in the table below. For Fat Protein Ratio and Udder Health, an additional table of cow counts is included following the appropriate section to allow an assessment of the "power" of the bars on the graphs. If the number of cows included is less than 25 and less than 66% of the cows that calved have sample data, then the bars are displayed with "low confidence" indicators.

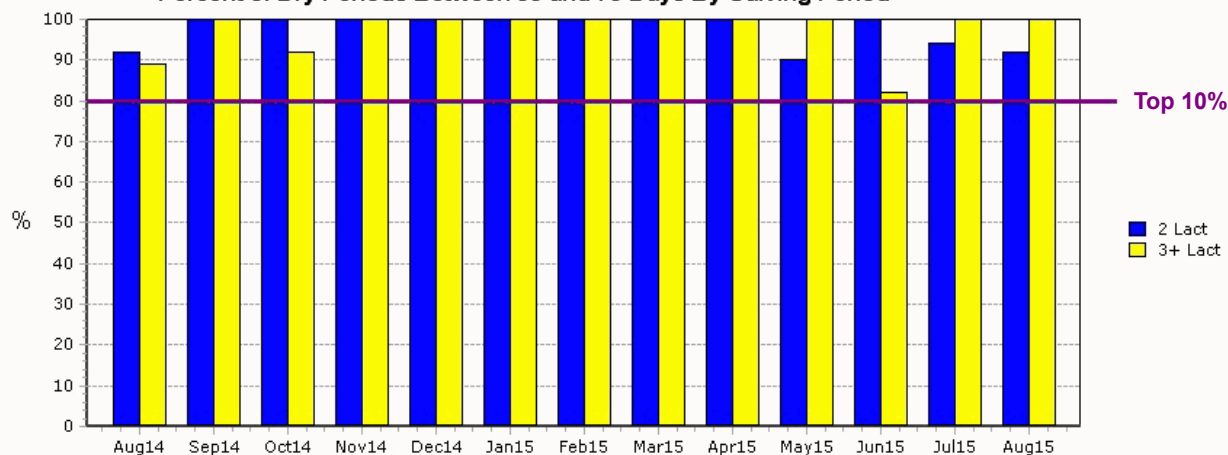
Number of Cows Calved

	Aug14	Sep14	Oct14	Nov14	Dec14	Jan15	Feb15	Mar15	Apr15	May15	Jun15	Jul15	Aug15
# 1st Lact Calved	16	15	27	16	25	18	11	14	13	14	21	20	13
# 2+ Lact Calved	32	28	28	21	32	17	21	25	22	16	25	31	24

Dry Periods Were they the proper length?

Research into shortened dry periods suggested 30 days has advantages. However, several studies found dry periods shorter than 30 days resulted in 5% to 15% reduced milk production. Dry periods longer than 70 days resulted in 10% less of milk.

Percent of Dry Periods Between 30 and 70 Days By Calving Period



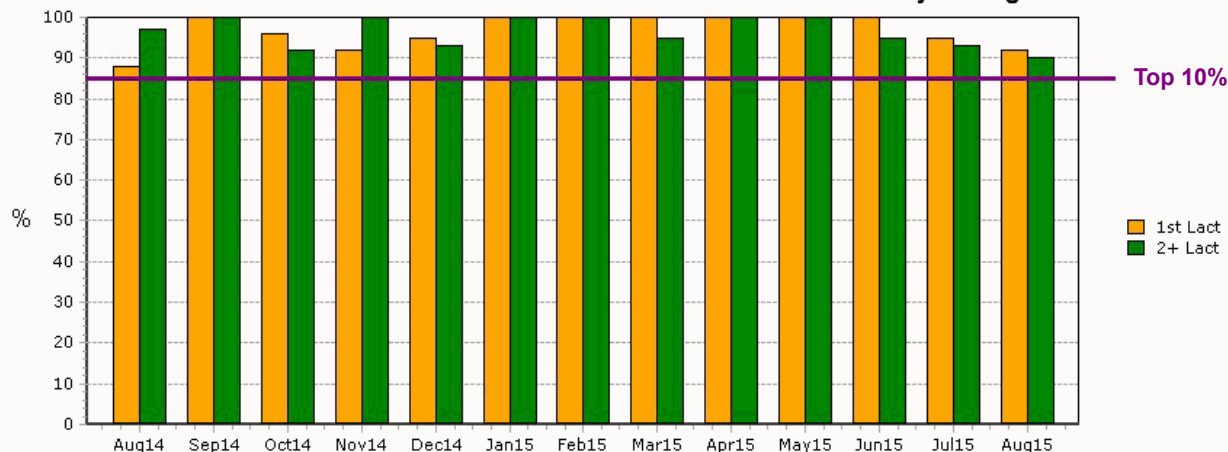
Percent of Dry Periods Outside 30 to 70 day Range for 2+ Lactation

	Aug14	Sep14	Oct14	Nov14	Dec14	Jan15	Feb15	Mar15	Apr15	May15	Jun15	Jul15	Aug15
< 30 Days	6		4							6	8	3	4
> 70 Days	3												
> 120 Days													

First Milk Are fresh cows producing well?

Early lactation milk provides clear insight to how well cows survived the transition period. Low or zero milk on the first test day prior to 40 days indicates problems that could be caused by several factors. Higher milk prior to 40 days indicates that dry matter intake is increasing properly following calving, and, high milk can make it easier for cows to reach their potential for peak milk.

Percent of Fresh Cows with First Milk 40+ for 1st Lact and 50+ for 2+ Lact By Calving Period



	Aug14	Sep14	Oct14	Nov14	Dec14	Jan15	Feb15	Mar15	Apr15	May15	Jun15	Jul15	Aug15
# 1st Included	16	10	24	13	20	12	8	12	13	13	15	19	13
# 2+ Included	31	22	25	20	29	12	18	22	20	16	20	29	20

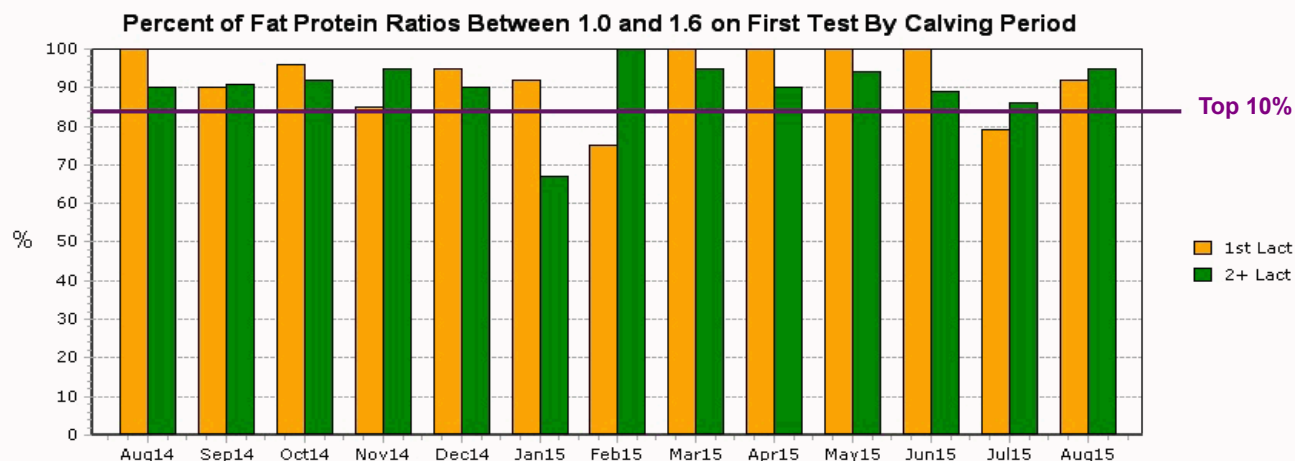
Percent of Fresh Cows in Aug15 With First Milk...

	< 20 lbs	< 30 lbs	< 40 lbs	< 50 lbs	< 60 lbs
1st Lact		8	8	8	46
2+ Lact		5	5	10	15

Fat Protein Ratio (FPR)

Is it appropriate on the first test?

The ratio of milk fat% to protein% (FPR) can indicate metabolic problems resulting from an inadequate transition management program. A normal FPR of 1.0 to 1.6 indicates that cows began the lactation eating well, are maintaining bodyweight and have a low incidence of metabolic and infectious disorders. Although FPR does not indicate whether fat% or protein% is at the improper level, it is an alert for potential problems.



Top 10%

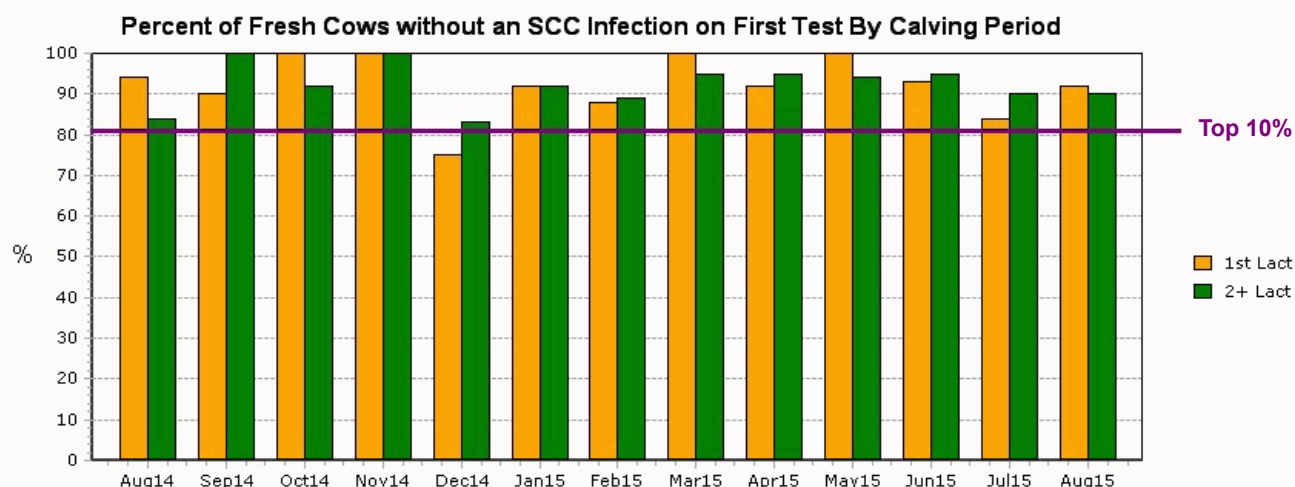
1st Lact
2+ Lact

	Aug14	Sep14	Oct14	Nov14	Dec14	Jan15	Feb15	Mar15	Apr15	May15	Jun15	Jul15	Aug15
# 1st Included	16	10	24	13	20	12	8	12	13	13	15	19	13
# 2+ Included	31	22	25	20	29	12	18	22	20	16	19	29	20

Udder Health

What percent of the herd does not have an SCC infection on the first test?

Although there is no absolute threshold of SCC for subclinical mastitis, it is usually accepted that a cow with 200,000 cells per ml or 4.0 SCC score has mastitis. A high percentage of infected cows early in lactation indicates potential problems in dry cow treatment programs or dry pen conditions. Note: cured=high at dry off but low at calving, and chronic=high at dry off and calving.



Top 10%

1st Lact
2+ Lact

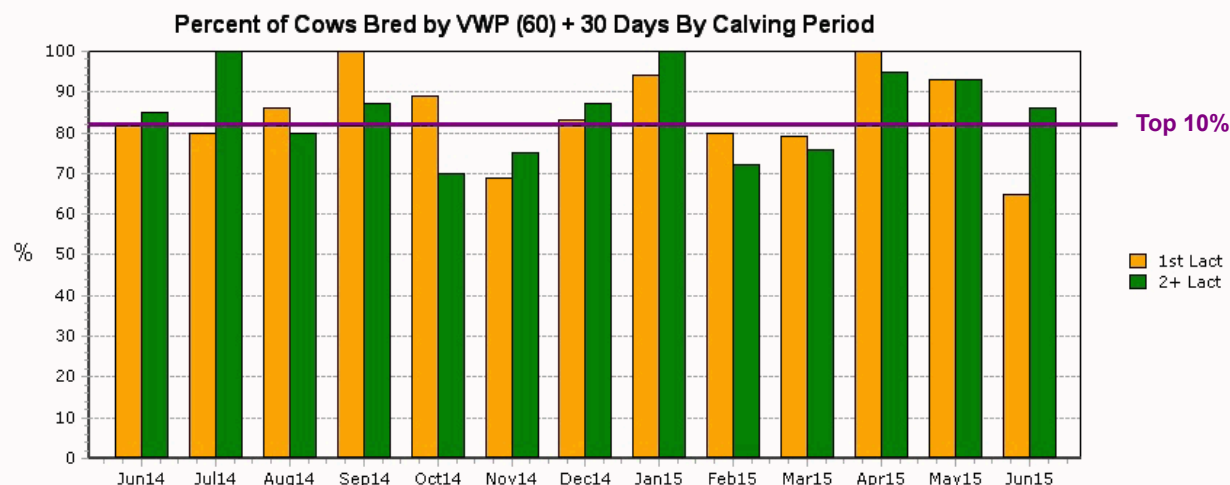
	Aug14	Sep14	Oct14	Nov14	Dec14	Jan15	Feb15	Mar15	Apr15	May15	Jun15	Jul15	Aug15
# 1st Included	16	10	24	13	20	12	8	12	13	13	15	19	13
# 2+ Included	31	22	25	20	29	12	18	22	20	16	19	29	20

Udder Health for 2+ Lactation By Calving Period

	Aug14	Sep14	Oct14	Nov14	Dec14	Jan15	Feb15	Mar15	Apr15	May15	Jun15	Jul15	Aug15
% New Cases	10		8		7		6	5	5	6	5	3	5
% Chronic	6				7		6					7	5
% Cures	13	27	32	25	29	67	33	32	15	25	37	14	10
# Included	31	22	25	20	28	6	18	22	20	16	19	29	20

Reproduction Are cows ready to breed soon enough?

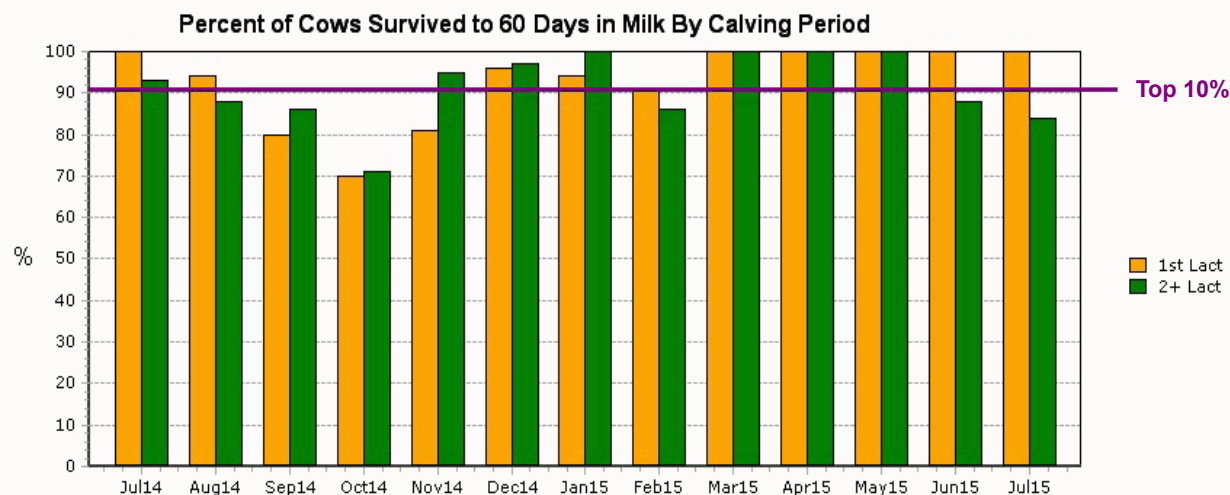
Although length of Voluntary Waiting Periods (VWP) can vary, cows should be bred the first time within 30 days of the end of the period. Effective management of the transition period including feed management and minimization of stressors will enable cows to be ready to return soon to reproductive activity. Thirty days after VWP allows all cows to exhibit heat at least once.



	Jun14	Jul14	Aug14	Sep14	Oct14	Nov14	Dec14	Jan15	Feb15	Mar15	Apr15	May15	Jun15
# 1st Included	22	15	16	15	27	16	25	18	11	14	13	14	21
# 2+ Included	29	27	32	28	28	21	32	17	21	25	22	16	25

Survival Are cows surviving to 60 days in milk?

An early exit from the dairy can result from problems associated with the transition and calving period. When cows leave prior to 60 days, they probably performed at a low level since calving and have not had an opportunity to pay for the costs of the dry period. The level of deaths during this period is a particularly important indicator of how well the transition period is managed.



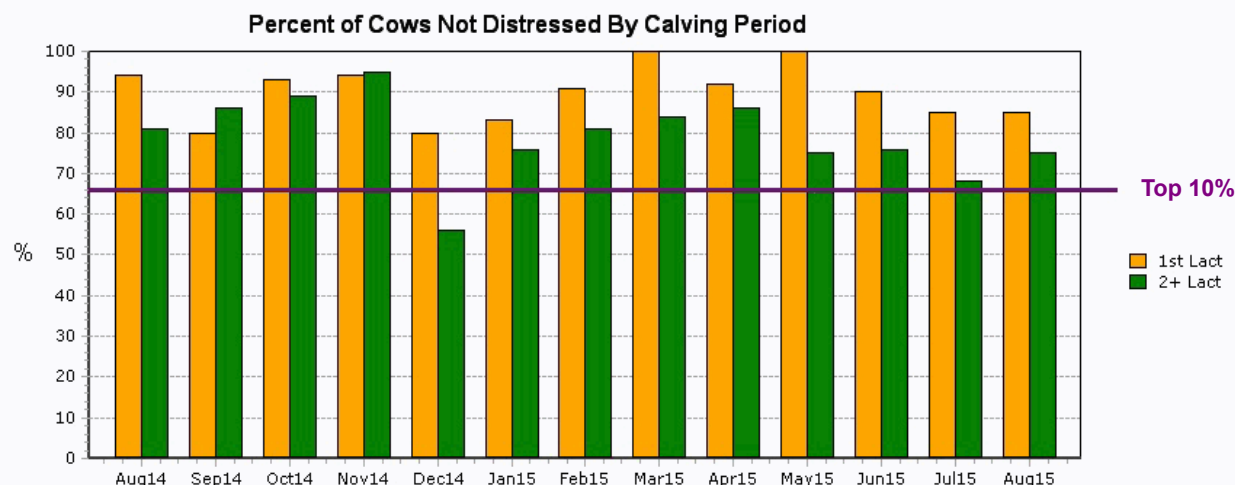
	Jul14	Aug14	Sep14	Oct14	Nov14	Dec14	Jan15	Feb15	Mar15	Apr15	May15	Jun15	Jul15
# 1st Included	15	16	15	27	16	25	18	11	14	13	14	21	20
# 2+ Included	27	32	28	28	21	32	17	21	25	22	16	25	31

Percent of Cows Left+Died and Died in First 60 Days By Calving Period

1st Lact - Left		6	20	30	19	4	6	9					
2+ Lact - Left	7	13	14	29	5	3		14				12	16
1st Lact - Died						4	6						
2+ Lact - Died	4				5							8	6

Distressed Cows What percent of cows were not distressed during transition period?

Cows that have been distressed during the transition period are at risk for less than optimum performance when they leave the fresh cow program. Often, multiple stressors compound problems and can cause cows to fail during the lactation. An examination of information from these cows can offer insights to opportunities for improvement in future management of the transition period.



Percent of Cows Not Distressed by Reason for Lactation 1 By Calving Period

	Aug14	Sep14	Oct14	Nov14	Dec14	Jan15	Feb15	Mar15	Apr15	May15	Jun15	Jul15	Aug15
SCC Infection	94	90	100	100	75	92	88	100	92	100	93	84	92
Clv. Ease is 3-5	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Stillbirth	100	80	93	94	96	100	100	100	100	100	95	95	92
Twins	100	100	100	100	100	94	91	100	100	100	95	100	100
Abortion	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
% Not Distressed	94	80	93	94	80	83	91	100	92	100	90	85	85

Percent of Cows Not Distressed by Reason for Lactations 2+ By Calving Period

	Aug14	Sep14	Oct14	Nov14	Dec14	Jan15	Feb15	Mar15	Apr15	May15	Jun15	Jul15	Aug15
Abn. Dry Period	91	100	96	100	100	100	100	100	100	94	92	97	96
SCC Infection	84	100	92	100	83	92	89	95	95	94	95	90	90
Clv. Ease is 3-5	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Stillbirth	94	93	93	100	94	100	90	92	95	94	84	87	83
Twins	100	89	100	95	69	82	100	92	91	88	92	84	88
Abortion	97	100	96	100	100	100	100	100	100	94	100	97	96
% Not Distressed	81	86	89	95	56	76	81	84	86	75	76	68	75



The following list includes cows that calved in the 40 days prior to the recent test day with an SCC infection and/or milk less than: Holstein lactation 1=40, lactation 2+=50; other breeds lactation 1=30, lactation 2+=40. Red highlights low milk or high SCC and yellow indicate other stressors. These cows are currently stressed and might need attention.

Fresh Cows with Low Milk OR High SCC Calving from 08-24-15 to 10-02-15

Barn Name	Calving Date	Grp	DIM	Lact	1st Test Milk	Pred Peak Milk	Days Dry	1st Test Fat	1st Test Pro	FPR	1st Test SCC	Prev Lact SCC	Clv Ease	SB	Tw	Ab
4137	Aug 27	2	37	2	107	131	49	5.0	3.3	1.5	373	230	0			
3740	Sep 6	2	27	4	98	118	52	4.6	2.9	1.6	3430	107	0			
3943	Sep 14	2	19	3	44	80	53	2.9	3.5	0.8	1493	62	0			
4263	Sep 20	2	13	2	115	135	52	4.0	3.3	1.2	214	246	0			
3556	Sep 21	2	12	5	93	119	53	5.1	3.2	1.6	1600	303	0			
3965	Sep 27	2	6	3	60	96	59	6.6	4.0	1.7	303	3940	0			
4253	Sep 28	2	5	2	82	113	53	5.7	4.9	1.2	214	348	0			