

Dairy Comp 305 Newsletter

Fourth Quarter – 2007

Number 26

As we look over our recent newsletters, it becomes evident that a rollercoaster ride would be a very accurate description of the dairy industry in the past few years. Everyone will remember 2007 as the year of both record high milk prices and record high feed prices. Fuel and corn prices have risen, along with almost every other cost including fertilizer, equipment, and utilities. It is not a time for the weak-of-heart. Sheer numbers tell the story. According to USDA data, there are about 75,000 dairies in the USA today, down 15,000 from the 90,000 dairies in 2000. Cow numbers are up more than 1% and dairies are getting bigger. In 2005 in the USA, 11% of the dairies owned 61% of the cows and produced 65% of the milk.

Speaking of historical numbers, in the 1930s there were about 22 million dairy cows in the USA giving about 130 billion pounds of milk. In 2006, 9.1 million cows produced 182 billion pounds of milk. On an annual basis, this is an increase from 6,000 to 20,000 pounds of milk per cow per year. Assuming it takes 25 pounds of dry matter per day to maintain a cow and 1 additional pound of dry matter to make 2.5 pounds of milk, it took about 250 billion pounds of dry matter to feed the US dairy herd in the 1930s one year; today that takes about 155 billion pounds of feed. This means the US dairy herd is making 40% more milk using 40% of the cows and 62% of the total feed it did 80 years ago. Such efficiencies not often mentioned in the today's press; however I'm proud to be working in such an industry. The dairy industry is truly one of the most successful "green" movements in history.

At VAS we have continued to try to keep our commitment to provide the support, updates and education to our customers. We have added two new DC305 people to work directly with support: Danny Frietas and Jay Watson. Both are former herdsman who have used DC305 extensively in their earlier roles on dairies. We are intending to further expand our support staff as we find qualified people. In addition we've been able to hire Steve Stewart, a veterinarian formerly in practice in Wisconsin and on staff at the University of Minnesota. In his position at Minnesota, Steve has already been helping us with his practical feeding and dairy knowledge in the development of our FeedWatch program. He has also offered us much positive criticism and useful feedback over a long period for DC305, and was instrumental in the development of the GUIDE command – see below.

RF-ID (Radio Frequency ID) tags, scanners and software continue to be an increasing part of our sales. We still don't know when (or even if) the USDA is going to require mandatory tagging of all cattle and the reporting all animal movement. However, we are finding that using PDAs (Personal Digital Assistants) on the dairy can be quite beneficial, especially for herds milking over 500 cows and where lockup stanchions are available. They are good not only for daily management needs of finding cows and entering data but also for test day recording of milk weights and sample numbers.

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BREDSUM – Adjusted Conception (Multifactorial Analysis)

Introduction:

Getting cows pregnant is an important goal on a dairy farm. Unfortunately, there are many factors that influence the success of a breeding. Traditionally, these are divided into heat detection, technician, sire and cow. The actual risk of conception is the product of these four factors.

For nearly 25 years, BREDSUM has had the ability to compare different levels of some of the factors affecting conception. The menu lists these: Sire, Stud Code, Technician, breeding cOde, times Bred, day of the Week, Calendar month, and cycle Number. There is even the X option to look at two factors simultaneously.

However, these single-variable analyses are potentially dangerous. If a new technician starts in the spring, and the summer is a more difficult time to settle cows, the conception risk for that technician likely will look worse than other technicians that have been breeding all year. Another example is one technician that breeds more virgin heifers will look better than another equally skilled technician that breeds mainly adult cows. Similar examples exist for timed-breedings vs. standing heats, etc.

The proper analysis would simultaneously look at all these factors. This ability has recently been added to BREDSUM.

Goals:

- Provide adjusted estimates of conception risk by various factors, such as technician.
- Rank the factors in order of importance.
- Group similar levels.
- Estimate confidence intervals for each level.
- Estimate contribution of each factor to the overall conception risk on the farm.

Definitions:

Factor Something that might affect conception, including:

TECH Technician

HDAT Season, based on month of breeding

LACT Lactation group – 0, 1, 2, 3+

DIM Cycle – Heifer, DIM<VWP, 1, 2, 3+

AGE Month – Adult, 11, 12, ... 24+ months

TBRD Times Bred – 1, 2, 3+

REM Breeding Code – ie. Standing, Chalk, OvSynch, etc

SID Stud of sire – 1, 11, 28, etc [proxy for semen handling, sexed semen]

LSIR Service sire

MILK Milk @ breeding – nearest 5 units

Level Category of a factor, such as which technician

BREDSUM Syntax:

BREDSUM

BREDSUM\XX [TECH HDAT LACT REM DIM AGE TBRD SIRE MILK ...]

BREDSUM Options

☒ Technician
☒ Month
☐ Lactation
☐ Breeding Cycle
☐ Age (Heifers)
☐ Bred Number
☒ Breeding Code
☐ Sire
☐ Stud Code
☐ By Day of the Week
☐ Milk
☐ Item

☐ LACT = 0
☒ LACT = 1
☒ LACT = 2
☒ LACT > 2

Enter Start Date: 5/4/04
Enter End Date: 5/4/05

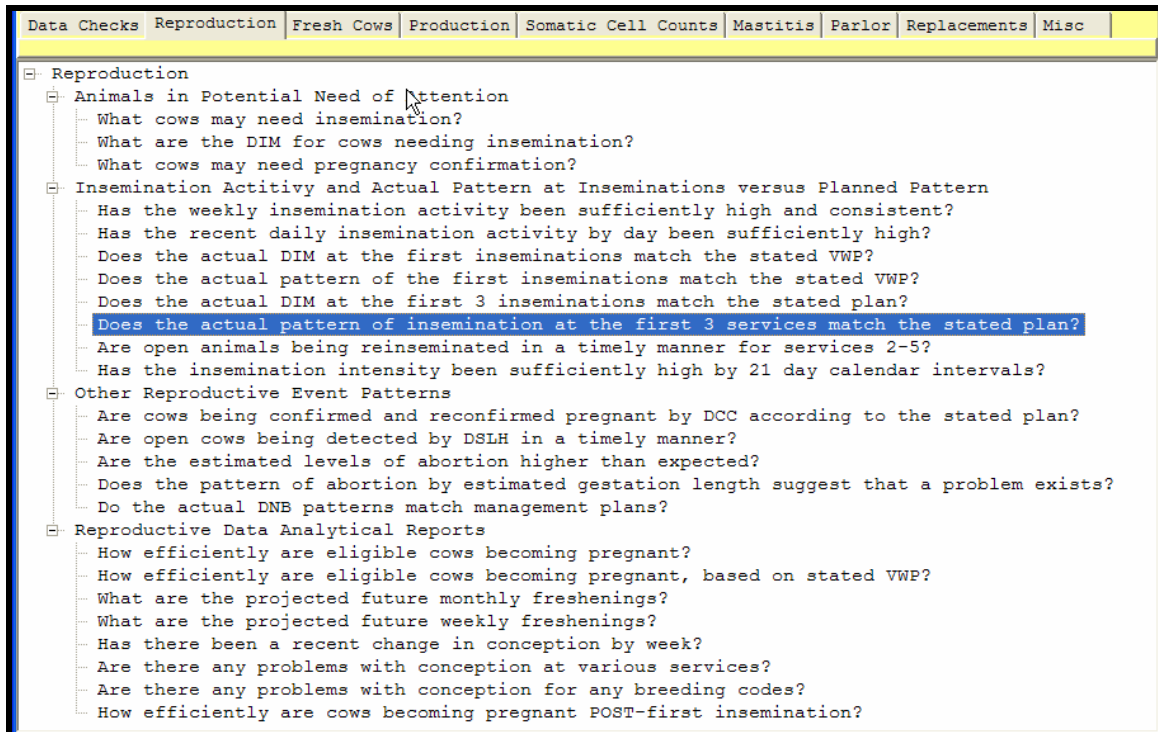
Go

Sometimes, even BREDSUM will not be able to estimate conception. For instance, if two technicians breed only heifers, and two other technicians only breed cow, the data are completely “confounded”, and the phase “No solution possible...” will be displayed. In those cases, clicking the Options button, and limiting lactation, or selecting fewer factors might help.

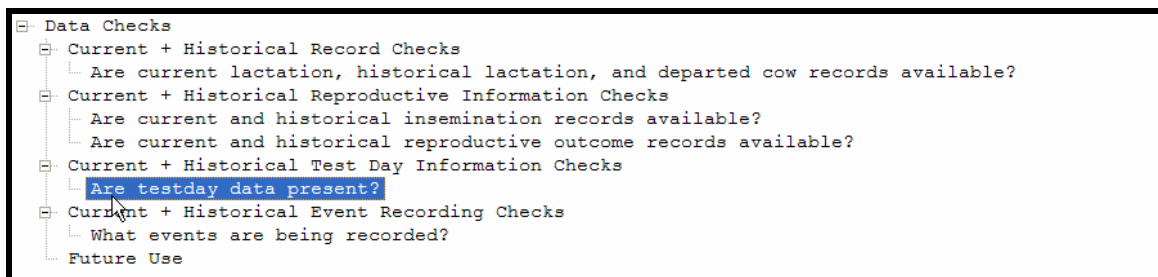
GUIDE

GUIDE is a command that calls a special file that contains questions and runs reports and/or graphs that will answer them. It is designed for dairymen and consultants to have an “interactive” session of asking “questions” and seeing the “answers” to them.

The actual contents of the GUIDE will continue to evolve as dairies ask new questions, and new tools are developed to answer them. The GUIDE command will open a “dialogue menu” that look similar to the following:



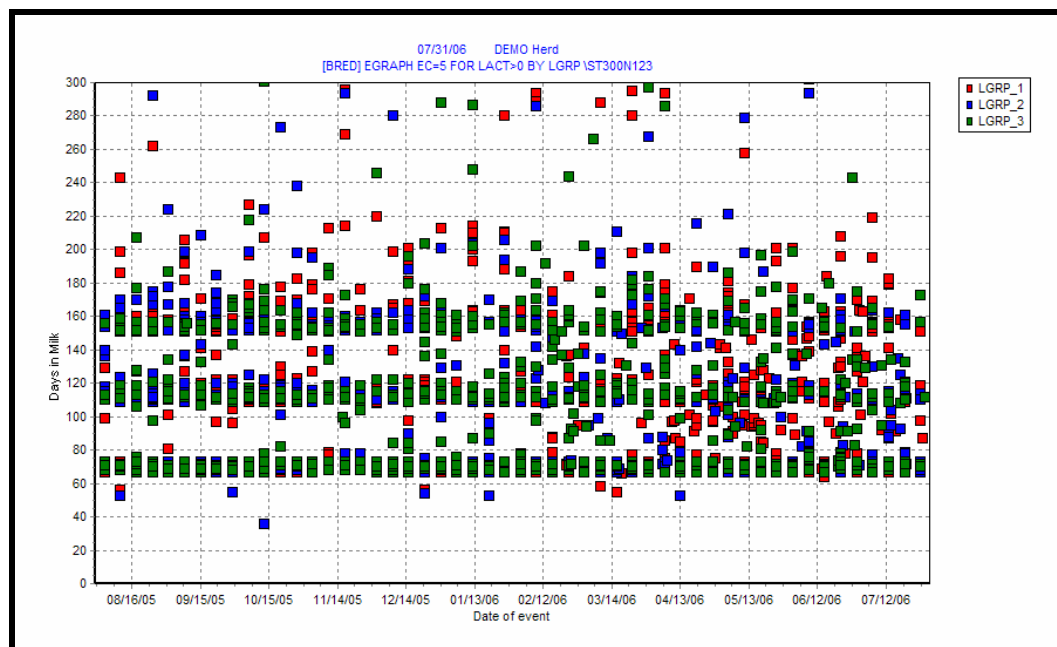
If we click on one of the questions, the “answer” will appear in the form of a “report” from DC305. This could be a list, table or graph. For example the highlighted questions below:



This will make a report that shows 3 years of testday data if it exists (partially shown here);

PLOT MILK LSC FOR LACT>0\RD1100																													
MILK	1015	1111	1210	1	5	211	310	415	512	610	714	812	915	1014	1110	1216	112	210	3	9	413	512	615	714	810	915	1012		
L2	67	77	71	81	71	77	74	78	73	72	66	73	68	73	74	76	70	76	73	75	73	69	69	69	67				
	1644	1575	1612	1593	1629	1635	1630	1620	1607	1606	1645	1679	1675	1642	1708	1704	1764	1808	1848	1803	1816	1904	1927	1909	1913				
	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.4	2.3	2.3	2.3	1.9	2.1	2.5	2.8	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.3	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.5	2.5				
	1625	1563	1597	1576	1614	1611	1628	1620	1607	1596	1625	1677	1674	1641	1703	1700	1755	1795	1846	1788	1812	1902	1923	1894	1912				

The following graph answered the question, “Does the actual pattern of insemination at the first 3 services match the stated plan?”



This graph shows the DIM for each of the first three breedings for the past year. Because it is a scatter graph, it shows the number of first, second, and third inseminations, the DIM at each insemination, and the lactation group. The display of each lactation group can be toggled off and on by clicking within the legend box. This herd has been utilizing a great deal of synchronization since there are definite groupings of insemination both by DIM and by calendar day.

Enhancements to EGRAPH - Graphical Event Analysis

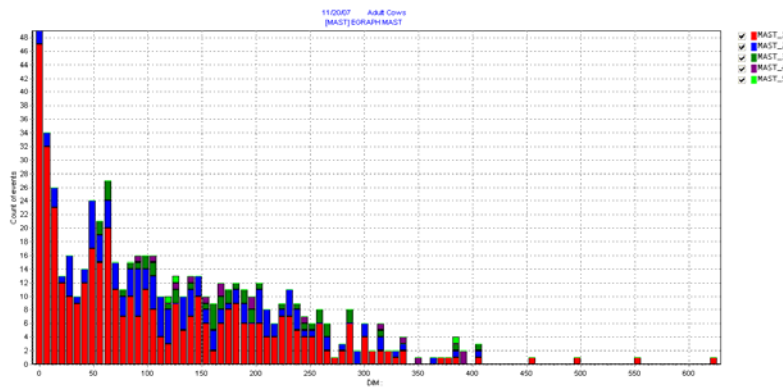
Recording events is fundamental to operating a dairy farm. Recording diseases and using the predetermined protocols dramatically helps accurate treatment and makes the creation of hospital lists describing the appropriate therapies more error-free. Prior to 2003, some farms had a policy of entering every treatment, so there might be 3 MAST entries on three successive days for a clin-

ical case. But with the FDA recommending the use of protocols, data entry became far simplified. A single entry of MAST is all that is necessary, and the Protocol selection automatically calculates the withholding dates.

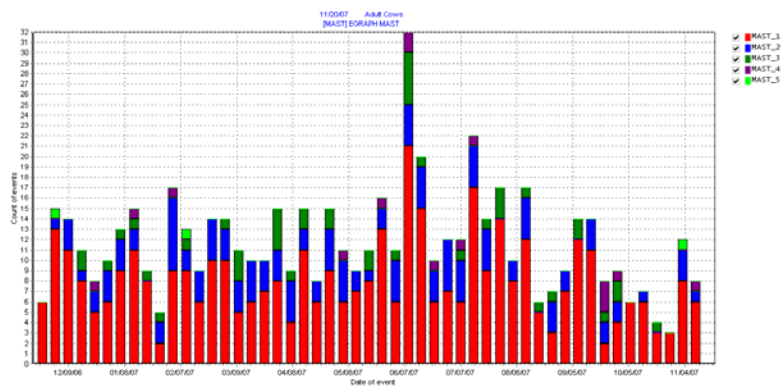
Accurate event entry provides a secondary benefit. It allows monitoring of the critical processes on a dairy. Post-partum diseases are the earliest indication of a problem with the transition process. These disease records are also the most specific indicators. There are many causes of low milk production – accurate disease detection helps narrow the choices.

EGRAPH allows rapid visual assessment of disease data. Unfortunately, because of the number of different ways people want to evaluate problems and successes, it has become rather complex. The current version now has new tools to facilitate easier usage.

For example, the following graph shows the DIM of all mastitis cases on a dairy for the past year.



The next graph is the same set of mastitis cases, shown by their calendar date or when the occurred during the year.



EGRAPH – Events Graphing

EGRAPH is used for graphical display of event data. **EGRAPH** can be called as a command, where a screen can guide the desired use, or it can be called with items and switches for more automated reports. Because the distinction between **EGRAPH**, **GRAPH**, and **PLOT** has been a source of confusion for some people, the commands “**PLOT** event” or “**GRAPH** event” generate the same output as “**EGRAPH** event”.

The default display is a histogram of selected event(s) by calendar date over the past year. The second common stratification of events is by **DIM** for adult cows, or by **AGE** for replacements. The third common stratification is by month of fresh to detect if there is an effect from a change in the transition program.

In the events associated with pregnancy diagnosis (**OPEN**, **PREG** and **PREV**) the additional **BY** items of **DSLH** or **DCC** is available to assess when cows are being diagnosed during gestation.

EGRAPH [event[,event]...] [**BY** item] [**FOR** ...] [\switches], where:

event is any event name such as **MAST**, **BRED**, **CULTURE**, **SOLD**, etc
item is optional, else limited to:
DIM (or AGE)
DSLH (for BRED, OPEN, PREG or PREV)
DCC (PREG, ABORT, DRY)

Switches:

A	Age in days (by AGE)
C	Show breeding Code for bred
Ddays	Date range starting days ago
Edays	Ending date range days ago
F	month of Fresh
G	Gestation length (by DCC)
H	since heat (by DSLH)
I	In milk (by DIM)
M	Multi-bar - stacked
Nn	Only the Nth event (can have multiple event #s)
P	Protocol – or person (Tech) of breeding
R[n]	Remark[n] or Result
S	Scatter - show all events vs. event date
T[n]	Top limit
Wdays	Width of histogram in days (default is 7 days)
W0	Month of event
Y	Youngstock
Z	Table view is default

Special Cases:

FRESH	defaults to lactation number \R shows result of freshening – Alive, Dead \C show calf sex – Male, Female
BRED	defaults to bred number (times bred) \R shows result – Preg, Open, Unknown, etc

\C shows breeding code – Standing, OvSynch, etc

\P shows person – AI technician

PREG, OPEN, PREV – same as **BRED**

SOLD displays disposal code

CULTURE displays primary organism

EGRAPH alone brings up an options screen that permits selection of all these choices. The Options button will invoke this display so that the graph can be customized on-the-fly.

Select one or more events and optional date range

<input type="checkbox"/> 1 FRESH	<input type="checkbox"/> 19 MISHEAT	<input type="checkbox"/> 37 MAST	<input type="checkbox"/> 55 USERE9
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 OK	<input type="checkbox"/> 20 MEASURE	<input type="checkbox"/> 38 METR	<input type="checkbox"/> 56 USERE8
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 RECK	<input type="checkbox"/> 21 FOOTRIM	<input type="checkbox"/> 39 MF	<input type="checkbox"/> 57 USERE7
<input type="checkbox"/> 4 HEAT	<input type="checkbox"/> 22 MAGNET	<input type="checkbox"/> 40 OFFEED	<input type="checkbox"/> 58 USERE6
<input type="checkbox"/> 5 BRED	<input type="checkbox"/> 23 EVT23	<input type="checkbox"/> 41 PNEU	<input type="checkbox"/> 59 USERE5
<input type="checkbox"/> 6 PREG	<input type="checkbox"/> 24 SELEN	<input type="checkbox"/> 42 RP	<input type="checkbox"/> 60 USERE4
<input type="checkbox"/> 7 OPEN	<input type="checkbox"/> 25 PROST	<input type="checkbox"/> 43 RESRV8	<input type="checkbox"/> 61 USERE3
<input type="checkbox"/> 8 PREV	<input type="checkbox"/> 26 DEWORM	<input type="checkbox"/> 44 RESRV7	<input type="checkbox"/> 62 USERE2
<input type="checkbox"/> 9 MOVE	<input type="checkbox"/> 27 SCORE	<input type="checkbox"/> 45 RESRV6	<input type="checkbox"/> 63 USERE1
<input type="checkbox"/> 10 BULLPEN	<input type="checkbox"/> 28 BSTART	<input type="checkbox"/> 46 RESRV5	
<input type="checkbox"/> 11 DRY	<input type="checkbox"/> 29 BSTOP	<input type="checkbox"/> 47 RESRV4	
<input type="checkbox"/> 12 ABORT	<input type="checkbox"/> 30 CULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> 48 RESRV3	
<input type="checkbox"/> 13 DNB	<input type="checkbox"/> 31 CYSTIC	<input type="checkbox"/> 49 RESRV2	
<input type="checkbox"/> 14 SOLD	<input type="checkbox"/> 32 DA	<input type="checkbox"/> 50 RESRV1	
<input type="checkbox"/> 15 DIED	<input type="checkbox"/> 33 DIARHEA	<input type="checkbox"/> 51 USERE13	
<input type="checkbox"/> 16 CHECK	<input type="checkbox"/> 34 HRDWARE	<input type="checkbox"/> 52 USERE12	
<input type="checkbox"/> 17 CALFVAC	<input type="checkbox"/> 35 KETOSIS	<input type="checkbox"/> 53 USERE11	
<input type="checkbox"/> 18 XID	<input type="checkbox"/> 36 LAME	<input type="checkbox"/> 54 USERE10	

Start Date \D 12/7/03

End Date \E 12/6/04

Use Scatter \S ☐

Event ## \Nnn

X-Axis

- ☒ Event Date
- ☐ DIM (Adults) \I
- ☐ mmmYY of Fresh \E
- ☐ Days Carried Calf \G
- ☐ Days Since Heat \H
- ☐ mmmYY of Event \wQ
- ☐ Age (Heifers)

Legend

- ☒ Event Number
- ☐ Result/Remark \B
- ☐ Breeding Code \C
- ☐ Protocol \P
- ☐ BY Item

Go

Examples:

EGRAPH MAST

Histogram of **MAST** events over the past year – colors represent first, second, etc. incident.

PLOT MAST

Identical to **EGRAPH MAST**

PLOT BRED

Histogram of breedings by date – colors represent first, second, etc. breeding.

PLOT BRED\S

Scattergraph of breedings – colors represent first, second, etc. breeding.

PLOT BRED\SP

Scattergraph of breedings – colors represent person breeding the cow (technician)

PLOT BRED\SC

Scattergraph of breedings – colors represent breeding code – standing, OvSynch, etc

PLOT BRED\SR

Scattergraph of breedings – colors represent result – open, pregnant, unknown, etc.

PLOT BRED\SRD150

Scattergraph of breeding results from the past 5 months

PLOT BRED\SRD150T150

Scattergraph of breeding results from the past 5 months, only the first 150 days-in-milk.

PLOT MAST\R

Histogram of MAST by date – colors represent first character of the remark

PLOT MAST\P

Histogram of MAST by date – colors represent protocol used for treatment

PLOT MAST BY DIM

Histogram of MAST events over the past year, but by days-in-milk.

PLOT PNEU BY AGE FOR LACT=0

Histogram of pneumonia by age

Note: Clicking on the legends toggles the display of those cows.

Options Button

A new button has been added to many routines (e.g., EGRAPH, PLOT, BREDSUM). This allows modification and re-running of the report without resorting to changing the command or adding switches.



Enhancements to EVENTS – Event Analysis Reports

Changes have been made to EVENTS reports to make them easier to read and expand their scope. EVENTS\5 calls the monthly table of events. The header for this was the calendar month. The problem with it was the current month was always a combination of the current year and the last year. This is a table of events published a couple of years ago in the news letter:

EVENTS ... FOR LACT>0													
Event	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
FRESH	2154	192	162	199	169	214	243	218	195	149	142	133	138
OK	1405	35	55	137	155	147	98	179	75	142	140	129	113
RECHK	49	5	2	4	7	6	5	1	0	3	10	3	3
HEAT	724	49	45	63	62	56	54	60	76	54	73	76	56
BRED	5734	451	342	428	465	477	471	552	620	480	518	480	450
PREG	1453	142	110	126	178	131	129	110	69	0	163	147	148
OPEN	3334	265	200	279	276	323	314	387	366	21	319	301	283
PREV	126	8	11	15	5	9	12	9	9	16	7	11	14
BULLPEN	2309	158	178	194	205	212	233	260	221	163	163	173	149
DRY	1200	99	44	36	114	108	144	108	139	67	104	114	123
ABORT	160	15	14	20	10	17	13	19	9	1	8	22	12
DNB	70	8	3	2	0	8	6	14	17	4	3	0	5
SOLD	711	39	85	35	23	0	114	104	70	57	56	82	46
DIED	45	1	3	8	1	0	8	5	1	8	6	2	2
CHECK	123	10	7	16	11	4	9	4	11	9	23	14	5
XID	57	2	4	10	6	3	5	12	11	4	0	0	0
MAST	193	9	14	16	24	13	20	26	26	22	3	12	8

This has now changed to show the year each month is taken from and the month that has some of both years has an “**” in it:

EVENTS\S for 10/04/06 - 10/04/07													
Event	Total	Jan07	Feb07	Mar07	Apr07	May07	Jun07	Jul07	Aug07	Sep07	Oct**	Nov06	Dec06
FRESH	2457	193	156	185	155	222	240	236	246	199	195	210	220
OK	3014	207	260	272	235	326	219	272	241	325	385	165	107
RECHK	104	17	7	8	8	16	11	7	4	9	13	2	2
HEAT	708	52	50	60	52	57	44	62	57	69	74	69	62
BRED	9966	707	742	879	805	724	822	935	939	964	891	782	776
PREG	2949	231	242	329	308	252	270	326	200	0	251	291	249
OPEN	5457	423	454	490	450	429	518	573	576	162	483	431	468
PREV	311	26	21	22	15	40	32	24	37	27	34	17	16
BULLPEN	3490	218	213	274	320	304	295	340	338	347	299	273	269
DRY	1600	108	90	140	145	155	185	123	140	128	129	125	132
ABORT	308	28	37	29	24	50	33	24	12	11	12	26	22
DNB	88	5	2	7	4	8	6	7	16	10	6	9	8
SOLD	780	58	47	69	43	44	75	74	63	60	103	95	49
DIED	200	15	19	11	16	8	13	23	17	30	22	16	10
CHECK	349	26	9	44	33	17	15	31	68	44	35	19	8
CALFVAC	1363	81	70	64	99	210	68	69	76	76	145	188	217
XID	986	64	50	66	72	85	89	67	181	73	79	80	80
MAST	609	45	49	46	48	47	68	65	40	47	59	53	42

If the letter “o” is added to the switch the events are “ordered” or sorted as the following header shows:

EVENTS\S0 for 10/04/06 - 10/04/07														
Event	Total	Oct06	Nov06	Dec06	Jan07	Feb07	Mar07	Apr07	May07	Jun07	Jul07	Aug07	Sep07	Oct07
FRESH	2457	172	210	220	193	156	185	155	222	240	236	246	199	23
OK	3014	278	165	107	207	260	272	235	326	219	272	241	325	107
RECHK	104	11	2	2	17	7	8	8	16	11	7	4	9	2

Adding an “s” to the switch will allow the start and end dates for this table. It can be extended for 31 months.

“BY” can be added to the EVENTS command to make different groups:

EVENTS\S5 BY LGRP for 09/01/07 - 09/30/07				
Event	Total	1	2	3
FRESH	199	60	51	88
OK	78	25	26	27
RECHK	1	0	0	1
HEAT	67	20	28	19
BRED	667	246	250	171
OPEN	120	43	52	25
PREV	9	3	3	3
BULLPEN	181	73	69	39
DRY	128	54	36	38

The command in the gray bar made the following events table, in this case sorted by lactation group.

Expanded Daily Hospital Treatment Details

The adoption of treatment protocols by progressive farms has been a substantive improvement to dairy management in the following areas:

1. Alignment with FDA drug recording recommendations.
2. Automatic determination of milk and meat withdrawals, and recheck dates.
3. Guiding employees in hospital treatments.
4. Tracking of disease incidence and severity.
5. Ability to assist in inventory management.

Along with these functions we have put cautions into the program to help keep treated animals from being submitted into the food. As an example, if Protocols are in place on the dairy and pens are designated as MILK pens, if a cow is moved into a MILK pen and her milk with-drawl date has shows it is too early to put her milk in the bulk tank, a warning message will come up when this activity is done. This occurs independently of how the cow is moved into the pen, either with or without the use of the MOVE event.

We have also set up color schemes in events and items to help keep antibiotic contamination out of the human food chain. For example, if a cow has mastitis and is being treated with an antibiotic that has a 4 day milk with-drawl and an 10 day beef with-drawl, the MAST event will remain RED until the milk with-drawl date is past. Also the item used for milk with-drawl date (e.g. MKDAT) will be RED until it is past. After this is date is past, the MAST event will turn YELLOW, for caution, since she is still not allowed to be sold for beef. If sold is entered into her record before the beef date (BFDAT) has been reached a warning message appears. And, as with the MKDAT being RED for milk with-drawl, the BFDAT will be YELLOW until it has been reached.

Contact VAS support for further help with setting up and using Protocols, Hospitals lists and with-drawl dates.

Importing and using milk culture results

We have the ability for two-way communication to milk culture laboratories. We have implemented this ability for several labs already. This communication allows:

1. Sending of a file from the dairy requesting milk cultures. This file contains the IDs of the animals and the type of culture requested. These files can be used by co-operating labs to read in the IDs, greatly lessening the potential for ID mismatches due to data entry errors.
2. Sending back a file automatically from the lab when the results are available. These results can then be read back into the cowfile.

Contact VAS for assistance.

DC305 Program Changes

New Item Types – 54, 85, 130

Item Substrings - Type 54 allows the extraction of a substring of an item.

The first parameter is the item from which to extract.

The second parameter is the starting location (0 means the end), and the third parameter is the length (number of characters to extract).

Example:

ItemName	Type	Op1	Op2	Description
STATE	54	USDA	1:2	First two characters of USDA
CODES	54	USDA	3:2	3rd, 4th, and 5th chars of USDA
LAST4	54	USDA	0:4	Last 4 characters of USDA

ID	USDA	STATE	CODES	LAST4
44	35WQX7622	35	WQX	7622
132	35LDH3775	35	LDH	3775
138	35DWP0883	35	DWP	0883
140	35SAV1735	35	SAV	1735
142	35LDH3399	35	LDH	3399
143	35LDH3781	35	LDH	3781
170	33VEU2517	33	VEU	2517

Ratios of protein and fat. .

Type 85.n.12 will return the ratio of Fat/Protein.

Type 85.n.21 will return the ratio of Protein/Fat.

Example: To easily compute the percentage of the protein to fat on the first monthly test, define P2F1 as type 85.1.21.

ID	FAT1	PTN1	P2F1
517	4.0	3.1	77

3.1 is 77% of 4.0

Month of a Date. Type 130. Returns the first day of the month, formatted as MMMYY.

So if MOFSH is defined as 130, FDAT, and FDAT is 23 June, 2007, the value returned will be 1 June 2007, which will be displayed as Jun07.

This is useful for stratifying events by month-of-fresh, or by month of events, etc. See the discussions in EGRAPH and EVENTS.

Herd Codes

Other changes that have occurred are for special, usually internal use. One that might be helpful in some circumstances is that an item type 105 configures as a 2 and 0 will return the herd code stored in the overhead of the cowfile. Herd codes are becoming increasingly importance as we get more sophisticated. This includes much we are doing over the internet (see the final article in this newsletter). Users are encouraged to get official herd codes whenever they need them. They are assigned through the DHIA and a dairy does not even need to be testing to have one.

It is important to remember that Herd Codes are different than “premises IDs” which are being put in place in some states and might be mandatory in the future throughout the USA. Premises IDs refer to a physical location of a farming operation. In its simplest terms, a Premises is the area that a group of animals occupy during their normal existence. Thus if dry cows are kept in one location and milking cows in another, the two might be considered one ‘premises’ since animals will be transported back and forth frequently. The general thought is the when an animal goes from one “premises” to another, that movement will ultimately need to be recorded and sent to the government. The final details of all of this has not been worked out, might vary by state and implementation and reporting has not yet started. When it does, there will be much written and discussed about it. (Note: “Premises” is the proper word for the land and buildings use for housing animals. “Premise” is reserved for the definition of an assumption in a logic debate.)

SETDAY

To the SETDAY command an “E” switch has been added. This will set the cowfile’s logon date to that of the last event or test date. This will be handy for consultants who accidentally logon using the wrong date and reports and are wrong due to date sensitive data is therefore set wrong. It replaces using the command SHOW ID EDAY DOWNBY EDAY to find the proper logon date.

SUM

One can now use DOWNBY item to get the top portion of a report breakdown. Also, in earlier versions, when a SUM report was sorted by a 2-byte item (DIM, FDAT, SID, etc.) it would only sort the first 32 break downs and the rest was grouped together at the end. Now it will sort the whole list by the breakdown. Such a command could be SUM RELV BY SID FOR LACT>0 for example. If such a list were printed earlier, it might now require a lot more paper

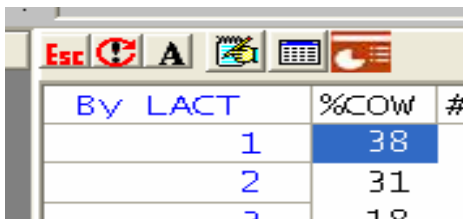
MONITOR

MONITOR can now use negative numbers in its parameters. For example, someone might want to know what percent of the cows tested produced less than -10 pounds of expected milk. The parameter could be setup to by EXPMK<-10, {blank}, MILK>0, DDAT=0

Enhanced Exporting of Reports

At the top of each report a number of icons are placed which are used to call procedures to help export and use the data in other programs.

These



six icons have the following function:

BY LACT	%COW	#
1	38	
2	31	
3	10	

The Esc button exits from the report



This icon will refresh the last report command that was used

This icon is used to adjust font size

This icon will put the report in Notepad. It can then be saved and used by other programs.

This icon brings the report into Windows Excel. Excel must be installed on the computer for this to work. It is really exporting a CSV text file for use.

This icon will export any report or graph into Power Point. If Power Point program is not opened it must be for this to be viewed. It will put the slideshow into a file named whatever file name is given to the print capture filename that is defined in SETUP.

FOR Enhancements for selecting cows with or without certain events.

Sometimes there is a need to find cows that have or have not had certain events recorded. The "FOR" statement now allows this. Assume MAST is event # 20.

FOR EC>20

Cows that have had at least one MAST event this lactation.

FOR EC<20

Cows that have not had even one MAST event this lactation.

FOR EC=20

Cows had MAST as the last event this lactation.

FOR EC>20 DIM=20-50

Cows that have had at least one MAST event between 20-50 DIM.

NB: FOR DIM=20-50 selects cows currently between 20-50 DIM.

FOR EC>20 EDAY=2/1-2/28

Cows that have had at least one MAST event in February.

NB: FOR EDAY=2/1-2/28 selects cows whose last event was in February.

FOR EC>20 REM=PIRSUE

Cows that have had at least one MAST event with REM of PIRSUE.

NB: FOR REM=PIRSUE selects cows whose last REM was PIRSUE.

FOR EC>20 REM>PIR

Cows that have had at least one MAST event with REM containing PIR

FOR REM>PIRSUE selects cows whose last REM contains PIR.

FOR MAST is the same as FOR EC>20

Internet Transfer of Data between Heifer Growers and Dairies

A simple and complete method for sending and receiving data between source farms (SF) and heifer growers (HG) has been developed and released. Routine bidirectional data flow is required for this to be a complete solution. To function properly, information about the calves born at a SF needs to be electronically sent to a HG and the data entered by heifer grower needs to be transferred back to the SF on a regular basis.

Previously, a complex batch file process was used to move the data via cowfile exchanges. Now an alternative has been developed to smoothly exchange events and items entered by either the heifer grower or the dairy in a much more automated manner. This new data transfer method is called iTrans and utilizes the Internet to accomplish this. The Internet connection connects to our “iLoop” which provides the process for the two-way data exchange. For this to work, both sites will need to be configured properly on the iLoop using the Internet. High speed is recommended, but dial-up connections should be possible as the files being exchanged are generally less than 1 Megabyte. Windows will need to be configured to automatically establish the internet connection if using a dial-up connection.

The “bottom line” of this procedure is that needed data can be sent automatically to the calf ranch or heifer ranch. This would include ID, birth dates, electronic ID tag numbers, and other information that might be needed such as parentage, twinning or type information. As events are entered into the heifer’s record, they will be sent back to the heifer’s record at the dairy so it becomes possible for those there to follow the progress of their animals through growing and breeding. Contact VAS support if you have an interest in setting this up.