# Understanding Your Annual Herd Management Report

Front of Report

The Annual Herd Management Report summarizes the performance of your herd for 35 measures of herd management. This report shows you how your herd has progressed over the past year(s) and allows you to compare your herd against the average of herds in the province and Canada. The historical tracking and benchmarking on this report show you where improvements have been made and where further improvements are possible. We recommend that you work with your advisors to set goals for the coming year in the various management areas and record them in the Farm Goal column.

The values on this report are the **average of all test days in the 12 months** prior to and including the last test of last year. The Benchmark values are for **all** herds on DHI in the province (Provincial Average) and Canada (National Average). The following is an explanation of each item.
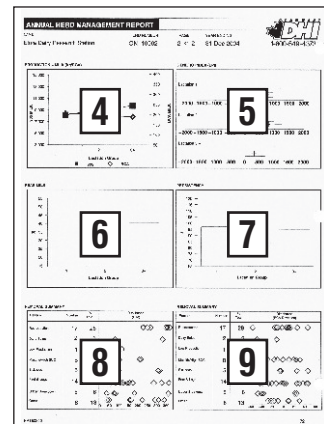
Back of Report

Production (1)

Annual Milk Value ($/cow) is the average estimated gross revenue/cow based on milk and component production.
Use: *a measure of estimated gross revenue per cow which is a predictor for total milk sales*

Annual Milk (kg) is the average kg of milk/cow
(last 12 months of production in the herd.)
Use: *a measure of actual milk production to compare with other herds.*

Annual Fat (kg) is the average kg of butterfat/cow.
Use: *a measure of actual fat production to compare with other herds.*

Annual Protein (kg) is the average kg of protein/cow.
Use: *a measure of actual protein production to compare with other herds.*

Average % Cows in Milk is the average % of cows milking on each test day. (i.e. 13 month C.I. & 60 days dry=85% cows in milk)
Use: *a measure of whether an appropriate % cows are milking at any one time.*

Average SCC ('000) is the average of the herd SCC from each test day.
Use: *a measure of udder health and milk quality*

Average LS is the average of the herd Linear Score on each test day.
Use: *a measure of status of udder health (L.S. greater than 3.0 indicates some intervention is needed)*

Age at 1st Calving (mm.m) is the average age of all first lactation animals that began a lactation in the herd.
Use: *a measure of heifer reproduction and nutrition management.*

Calving Interval is the average calving interval for all 2nd or greater lactation animals that began a lactation in the herd.
Use: *a measure of the reproduction management of the milking herd.*

Days Dry is the average days dry for all 2nd or greater lactation animals that began a lactation in the herd.
Use: *a measure of reproductive and dry program efficiency*

Herd Demographics (2)

Herd Age (mm) is the average age in months of all cows in the herd on test day.
Use: *a measure of cow longevity.*

Avg Number of Cows is the average number of cows on each test day.
Use: *a measure of herd size changes over previous year(s).*

% in Lactation 3+ is the average % cows in 3rd or greater lactation on each test day.
Use: *an indicator of age distribution and longevity of herd.*

Herd Removal Rate (%) is the % of the herd removed (cows leaving/average number of cows).
Use: *a measure of culling practices and dairy sales.*

Avg Number of Heifers is the average # of heifers on each test day. (Note: heifers must be put into Dairy Comp 305 by DHI staff to be counted).
Use: *a measure of the size of the replacement herd.*

Other Measures (3)

Avg Lactation Length is the average number of days of lactation for cows that calved in the herd.
Use: *a measure of reproduction management.*

Avg Peak Milk is the average of peak milk production for all cows that calved in the herd (Estimated by Mulitple Trait Prediction).
Use: *a measure of early lactation management*.

Avg Test Day Persistency is the herd average for the percent milk yield for the last test day of the year, compared to the previous test day.
Use: *An indicator or persistency of lactation within the herd.*

Avg Daily Fat is the average kilograms of fat yield per cow in the herd on test day.
Use: *a measure of butterfat production and quota utilization.*
Avg Daily Prot is the average kilograms of protein yield per cow in the herd on test day.
Use: *a measure of protein production, may assist in the calculation of solid-non-fat levels for the herd.*

Avg Prot/Fat Ratio is the average protein/fat ratio for the test days.
Use: *impacts milk revenue.*

MUN (mg/dl) is the average of all herd MUN values for each test day where MUN was tested.
Use: *a measure of nutrition management, specifically protein:energy relationships.*

Breedings/Cow/Year is the average number of times each cow in the herd was bred.
Use: *a measure of reproduction management.*

Avg Days Gestation is the average number of days gestation for calvings in the herd over the past year.
Use: *abnormal lactation length may be an indicatior of cow nutrition or health issues.*

Avg Days to 1st Breeding is the average number of days between calving and first breeding for cows that calved in the herd.
Use: *a measure of reproduction management.*
Avg Days Open is the average number of days between calving and pregnancy for cows that calved in the herd
Use: *a measure of reproduction management.*

Voluntary Removal Rate (%) is the % of the herd removed for 'voluntary' reasons (Export, Dairy Sales, Low Production or Components, Temperament, Slow Milker).
Use: *a measure of proactive culling.*

Involuntary Removal Rate (%) is the % of the herd culled for 'involuntary' disposal reasons (Mastitis, Feet and Legs, Reproduction, etc.).
Use: *a measure of extent of reactive culling.*

Dairy Sales (%) is the % of the herd sold for 'dairy'.
Use: *a measure of the amount and/or success in merchandising cattle.*

Management Graphs

4. Production Graph
The **Production graph** shows the production of your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd+ lactation cows for both KG and BCA Milk. This graph is designed to increase your awareness of how the production and BCA's of the three groups compare.

5. Genetic Index
The **Genetic Index (Milk)** information is supplied by CDN and is based on the last test of the report period. The **box graph** illustrates the genetic distribution of cows within the lactation group and the genetic trend between the lactation groups. If the breeding objective for your herd includes increased milk production, the average Genetic Index - Milk (GI-Milk) should be higher for your 1st lactation animals than for your 2nd and 3+ lactation cows. The box graph illustrates the rate of change and range within each lactation group.

The components of a box graph are described below:
• The box represents the 25th to the 75th percentile for GI-LPI of the group.
• The vertical line in the box represents the 50th percentile for GI-LPI in the group.
• The +sign in the box represents the average GI-LPI in the group.
• The dotted line to the left and right of the box represents the entire group, except outliers.
• 'Outliers' (exceptionally high or low cows) are shown by an X on the chart.

6. Peak Milk
The **Peak Milk graph** shows the average peak milk for animals that started their 1st, 2nd, and 3rd and greater lactation in the herd during the year. The graph is designed to increase your awareness of how the peak milk of the three groups compare.

7. Persistency
The **Persistency graph** shows the average lactation persistency for animals that started their 1st, 2nd, and 3rd and greater lactation in the herd during the year. The graph is designed to increase your awareness of how the persistency of the three groups compare.

8. Removal Summary
This **Removal Summary** shows the relationship between stage of lactation and reasons for culling cows. The summary is designed to increase your awareness of when cows are culled for involuntary and voluntary reasons.

The column *'Number'* is the number of animals that left for that reason. The column *'% Total'* shows the % of all animals that left the herd for that specific reason.

9. Removal Summary
This **Removal Summary** shows the relationship between production and reasons for culling cows. The summary is designed to increase your awareness of the quality of cows culled for involuntary and voluntary reasons.

The column *'Number'* is the number of animals that left for that reason. The column *'% Total'* shows the % of all animals that left the herd for that specific reason.