LevyinAction 2015
Management of Dairy Cows from Calving until Mating Start date

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Why is 6 week calving rate important?

**Motivation =**

80 cow herd

Increase 6 week calving rate from 58% to 90%

+€21,120 per year

Shalloo et al. (2014)
Seasonal, pasture-based milk production

Average lactation = 285+ days
Earliest calving cows most fertile

- 6wk Incalf rate
- Not Incalf Rate

% of herd

Weeks calved at Mating Start Date:
- > 12 wks
- 9-12 wks
- 6-9 wks
- 3-6 wks
- < 3 wks
BCS and fertility

What’s important?
1. BCS at MSD
2. BCS loss after calving

Buckley et al. (2003)
BCS recommendations (1 to 5 scale)

Mean BCS 3.00
Range 2.75 to 3.25

BCS 6 mo before AI!

BCS 3.00 or 3.25

Mean BCS 2.9
Range 2.75 to 3.25

300 days postpartum

Dry Period

Early lactation

Late Lactation

Mid Lactation

200 days postpartum

Pregnancy establishment

100 days postpartum
BCS options for thin cows

Extra conc. feed?
- Most → Milk output
- Little change in BCS
- Superlevy implications

Once a day?
- Reduce milk output
- Improve energy balance/BCS
- Shorten anoestrus period

Feed low protein diet
- Impractical for grazing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Immediate reduction in MS</th>
<th>Total lactation reduction in MS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st 3 weeks</td>
<td>15 to 20%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st 6 weeks</td>
<td>20 to 30%</td>
<td>13%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full lactation</td>
<td></td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Adapted from Correa et al. (1993)

Links between peripartum problems

Excessive BCS loss

Delayed resumption of cyclicity

Compromised uterine health

Poor fertility
Uterine health

20% dirty

% cows

Score

1 2 3 4 5

Conc rate 1 (%)

Score

1 2 3 4 5

Treat cows calved >14 days with score ≥2 with intrauterine antibiotic (Metricure)

Data from McDougall et al (2007); Runciman et al. (2009)
Cow Management for compact calving

Main calving period. Focus on BCS, peripartum problems, general cow health

Progestosterone-OVSYNCH

GnRH + P4D 7 d
PG + P4D OUT 60 h
GnRH 18 h TAl

P4D (7 d)

GnRH = Receptal or Ovarelin
P4D = CIDR or PRID
PG = Estrumate, Lutalyse or Enzaproost
TAl = Timed artificial insemination

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