

Demo Herd




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HowsMyHerd

Providing low cost solutions to high cost problems

Fertility

FERTILITY

Performance	Your Herd	Target*	Heat Detection
Calving Interval (days)	402	380	<p>The lameness issue is clearly disrupting heat expression and detection throughout the herd. Heat signs are being reduced due to poor floor surfaces and lack of lying time making the cows stiff and unwilling to show signs. By improving the cubicle measurements the lying times will be increased, reducing ulcers and increasing the cows' willingness to mount or be mounted. The RMS system is a good option for the herd if there is insufficient time for the farm staff to do similar. It is essential to get the lameness levels down, improve ventilation and spend some time on heat detection so there is a teamwork approach.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">    </div>
Voluntary Waiting Period (days)	50	50	
Days To First Service	68	60	
Services Per Conception	4.0	1.8	
Conception Rate (%)	26%	45-50%	
100 Day In Calf (%)		>75%	
200 Day Not In Calf (%)		<10%	

*Source: Kingshay Dairy Manager, NMR, Esslemont R J

Calving Interval (days) would ideally be reduced to produce more milk per cow per year. Days To First Service - Target a minimum of 60 days from calving to 1st service. Services Per Conception - Can be misleading as only serving particular cows will improve this.

Financial Impact of Infertility

	Your Herd	Target	Difference	Cost/Cow
Calving Interval (days)	402	380	22	£88
Conception Rate (%)	26%	55	-55	
Services per Conception	4.00	32	2.18	£44
Infertility Culling Rate (%)	1	6	8	£52
Infertility Cost for Your Herd				£47,701
Cost per cow				£183
Cost per litre (pence)				2.06

Adapted Source: Esslemont R J, 2003

A Kingshay service developed in partnership with QNM

Service/Cow Management

There are some cows that have been served early which is not ideal as annual production will be down and cause problems with drying off high yielding cows. On inspection there was a high percentage of cows with whites or metritis. Cows should't be routinely checked if no problems are seen as this will add extra contamination to the cow causing increased metritis. I would advise putting some strong iodine in each water trough each day (20ml) or apply 10-20ml directly to the backs of all cows at drying off and when the cow enters the transition group.

Actions

- Improve lighting and ventilation to increase Vitamin production and help identification of cows and increase their confidence to mount.
- Cows would benefit from having strong iodine either poured on their backs at drying off and when they join the transition group or in the water troughs of the fresh cows.
- BCS all cows at 200 days post calving, manage accordingly.
- Improve cubicles and lameness to reduce stress on the cows.

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