

# Exploring Vermont Dairy

## Dairy Herd Management Tools

Lindy Birch, 4-H Educator, Orleans & Essex Counties  
[melinda.birch@uvm.edu](mailto:melinda.birch@uvm.edu)

Date: November 16, 2021



---

---

## REMINDERS FOR A SUCCESSFUL ZOOM MEETING...

Stay muted unless talking.

Share thoughts and questions via **Chat Box**.

Mark **"raise your hand"** if you would like to speak.

Be courteous and respectful.

Make sure you do not create distractions

(e. g. do not make silly faces and make sure that nothing is happening in your background, etc.)

Stay engaged and participate fully, especially in breakout rooms

Have your curriculum book handy, a pencil and supplies from list



# PRODUCTION CYCLE OF A COW



# Let's review!

What did you come up with for management decisions at each stage of a cow's life cycle?

Cow has calf	Calf 6-8 weeks	Heifer (8 weeks to 1 yr old)	Heifer at 12-15 mos	Freshening at 2 years	Lactation 1 (10-14 months)	Breeding 90-120 days post calving)	Dry off (for 60 days) Fresh with calf #2

---

---

## Review – Additional questions

- Why is good record keeping important on a dairy farm (in relation to dairy herd management)?
- Can you name 2 management tools that are available to Vermont Dairy Farms?

Lancaster DHIA

Dairy One

- Describe milk testing

---

---

**Video (milk testing and management)** <https://youtu.be/zkV5ucfgM58>



016 - PRODUCTION - Milking Cows (Money Corrected Milk Order)

ANDY & SARAH BIRCH - 13104548  
Ref:02-22

R	B	Prev	Curr	Curr	Curr	Curr	Curr	Pre	Cur	Days					
A	Barn	R	T.D.	T.D.	T.D.	T.D.	T.D.	Fat+	LTD	SCC	SCC	Lct	In	Due	Repo
T	Name	D	MCM	MCM	Milk	%Fat	%Prt	Prot	MCM	Act	Act	No.	Milk	Date	Code
	PEEP HO		143.9	128.0	4.3	3.1	9.5	5356	1213	38		4	68	11/26	
A	FANFARE HO	100.2	129.8	112.0	4.2	3.4	8.5	19066	13	13	2	210	07/09	P	
C	RASCAL HO	105.3	127.1	104.0	4.7	3.4	8.4	5169	29	13	3	77	11/19		
B	HEDWIG HO	132.6	124.5	124.0	3.2	3.2	7.9	15972	13	13	3	169	08/13	P	
A	YACHT HO	139.4	118.8	108.0	3.7	3.4	7.7	15524	87	54	3	146	10/04	P	
A	MARBLE HO	132.5	117.2	120.0	3.0	3.2	7.4	26729	29	29	3	246	10/21		
A	SOLEIL HO	115.2	115.5	96.0	4.0	3.8	7.5	11812	13	13	2	137	09/17	P	
	LOCAS HO		113.4	92.0	4.8	3.4	7.5	2215		13	7	51			
B	GOBBLE HO	85.7	110.5	108.0	3.5	3.1	7.1	6957	18	13	2	105	11/12		
	AQUA HO		110.2	92.0	4.5	3.4	7.3	2031		13	2	50			
B	SALSA HO	134.7	106.3	82.0	4.8	3.8	7.1	20866	29	50	5	217	08/11	P	
A	CORVAIR JE	67.3	106.0	76.0	6.1	3.4	7.2	3355	76	13	2	71	11/18		
C	RUBY HO	112.5	104.9	96.0	3.5	3.5	6.7	16992	13	13	4	188	08/23	P	
C	FENWAY HO	117.4	103.4	96.0	3.7	3.3	6.7	14472	44	13	4	165		C	
D	ALLSTAR HO	72.3	102.6	88.0	4.5	3.2	6.8	3958	27	13	2	79	11/12		
A	EDITH HO	91.6	101.4	92.0	3.6	3.5	6.5	20048	13	13	2	234	06/22	P	
B	JOLENE HO	83.5	100.2	70.0	5.7	3.9	6.7	18306	23	33	1	273	05/07	P	
A	WOODSTK HO	101.3	98.7	92.0	3.6	3.3	6.3	24605	18	22	2	264	06/07	P	
A	VANNA HO	104.1	98.0	86.0	3.8	3.6	6.4	26178	15	13	2	281			
D	LEIA HO	105.0	96.6	81.0	4.5	3.4	6.4	11834	27	13	3	150	11/11		
A	SAMBA HO	116.3	94.5	80.0	4.1	3.6	6.2	19856	62	650	2	220	07/05	P	
C	TAMALE HO	88.7	92.8	82.0	3.8	3.5	6.0	8645	23	33	1	130	09/23	P	
B	JACKIE HO	96.1	88.4	76.0	4.2	3.4	5.8	16472	1300	13	2	212	07/03	P	
B	FRIEDA HO	100.4	86.2	68.0	4.5	3.8	5.6	21868	13	13	1	306		C	
	CHARM HO		84.1	78.0	3.5	3.4	5.4	1545		13	2	50			
	VICKY HO		82.1	80.0	3.8	2.9	5.4	1108		13	1	46			
B	HERMION HO	97.2	82.0	70.0	3.7	3.8	5.3	12217	14	17	1	180	11/07		
C	PENNY HO	67.0	81.3	70.0	4.2	3.4	5.3	8215	15	13	1	144	09/30	P	
B	MEMPHRE HO	84.3	81.1	65.0	4.6	3.6	5.3	23319	50	66	2	298	05/27	P	
D	LADY HO	84.0	81.0	60.0	5.2	3.8	5.4	9323	13	13	2	138	10/08	P	
A	IVY HO	67.6	79.6	62.0	4.8	3.7	5.3	24773	44	50	2	281	07/01	P	
	RITA HO		78.0	70.0	4.1	3.2	5.1	1995		25	1	58			
C	GLORIA HO	80.3	76.8	74.0	3.3	3.3	4.9	8372	13	20	1	140	09/16	P	
D	VIRGINI HO	58.0	76.4	72.0	3.6	3.2	4.9	3716	25	13	1	91	11/04		
B	CHEVY JE	77.1	75.6	50.0	5.5	4.6	5.0	23310	13	187	3	308	05/29	P	
C	INGRID HO	77.0	74.2	66.0	3.6	3.6	4.8	15627	18	13	1	252	05/18	P	
D	LEVITY HO	84.1	70.8	57.0	4.7	3.5	4.7	8117	14	13	1	143	09/09	P	
C	EILEEN HO	72.3	69.3	52.0	4.8	4.0	4.6	24828	38	15	2	337	06/05	P	
E	ABILINE HO	41.3	66.3	56.0	4.6	3.2	4.4	2198	41	14	1	75	11/18		
B	SENECA BS	85.1	63.6	52.0	4.3	3.7	4.2	20948	87	115	2	283	09/13	P	
D	ARROW HO	62.9	55.1	48.0	4.1	3.4	3.6	14401	566	492	1	262	05/13	P	
C	CHEVELL JE	73.0	53.9	52.0	3.9	2.9	3.5	2748	123	123	1	74			
D	EVA HO	77.9	51.5	44.0	4.6	3.2	3.4	15285	162	1600	1	272	05/07	P	
E	SHASTA BS	60.9	48.7	36.0	4.9	4.0	3.2	8882	38	66	1	199	07/25	P	
***Averages for 44 animals ( 86% of herd) ***															
			90.8	91.4	78.7	4.1	3.4	6.0	12937	79	68	2	175		

Questions based on this spreadsheet:

- Which cows are not rated yet?
- How many "days in milk" are the not rated cows?
- How many "A" rated cows are listed?
- Which cow has had the most calves in the herd and is most likely the oldest?
- How many "D" rated cows are listed?
- Which cows are coded as culls?
- What is the average for test day milk on all 44 cows? And, why is it only based on 86% of the herd?
- Which cow has the highest % protein on this list and what breed is she?
- How many cows are confirmed pregnant on this list?
- Which cow is due on 10/21/21?
- Which cow has the highest current test day milk production? Lowest?
- Based on today's date, who is the next cow due to calve?
- Which cow has the highest scc for this test day?
- Which cow has a current test day milk weight that is closest to the herd avg?
- If you based your culling decisions solely on herd rating; who would you cull?
- Which cow had the biggest change in milk production from previous to current?
  - Increase:
  - Decrease:



019 - PRODUCTION - Income Over Feed Cost

ANDY & SARAH BIRCH - 13104548  
Ref:02-22

Barn Name	Index	Days Lct No.	Curr In Milk	Curr T.D. Milk	Curr T.D. %Fat	Curr T.D. %Prt	Curr T.D. Prot	Curr T.D. MCM	Curr (Est) Feed\$	Curr (Est) IOFC\$	
PEEP	553	4	68	128.0	4.3	3.1	9.5	143.9	8.70	8.06	
AQUA	614	2	50	92.0	4.5	3.4	7.3	110.2	5.92	6.92	
LOCAS	1249	7	51	92.0	4.8	3.4	7.5	113.4	6.77	6.44	
RASCAL	577	3	77	104.0	4.7	3.4	8.4	127.1	8.47	6.34	
FANFARE	600	2	210	112.0	4.2	3.4	8.5	129.8	9.51	5.61	
SOLEIL	611	2	137	96.0	4.0	3.8	7.5	115.5	8.15	5.31	
HEDWIG	580	3	169	124.0	3.2	3.2	7.9	124.5	9.21	5.29	
ALLSTAR	613	2	79	88.0	4.5	3.2	6.8	102.6	6.97	4.98	
YACHT	573	3	146	108.0	3.7	3.4	7.7	118.8	8.98	4.86	
VICKY	642	1	46	80.0	3.8	2.9	5.4	82.1	4.74	4.82	
MARBLE	566	3	246	120.0	3.0	3.2	7.4	117.2	8.96	4.70	
GOBBLE	607	2	105	108.0	3.5	3.1	7.1	110.5	8.19	4.69	
CHARM	616	2	50	78.0	3.5	3.4	5.4	84.1	5.17	4.62	
SALSA	523	5	217	82.0	4.8	3.8	7.1	106.3	8.20	4.18	
RUBY	545	4	188	96.0	3.5	3.5	6.7	104.9	8.27	3.95	
EDITH	604	2	234	92.0	3.6	3.5	6.5	101.4	7.99	3.82	
RITA	637	1	58	70.0	4.1	3.2	5.1	78.0	5.30	3.79	
FENWAY	550	4	165	96.0	3.7	3.3	6.7	103.4	8.27	3.78	
JOLENE	625	1	273	70.0	5.7	3.9	6.7	100.2	7.95	3.72	
VANNA	583	2	281	86.0	3.8	3.6	6.4	98.0	7.85	3.56	
WOODSTK	596	2	264	92.0	3.6	3.3	6.3	98.7	7.95	3.55	
SAMBA	605	2	220	80.0	4.1	3.6	6.2	94.5	7.47	3.54	
LEIA	581	3	150	81.0	4.5	3.4	6.4	96.6	7.76	3.50	
TAMALE	628	1	130	82.0	3.8	3.5	6.0	92.8	7.38	3.43	
JACKIE	606	2	212	76.0	4.2	3.4	5.8	88.4	7.27	3.03	
HERMION	630	1	180	70.0	3.7	3.8	5.3	82.0	6.58	2.97	
FRIEDA	624	1	306	68.0	4.5	3.8	5.6	86.2	7.10	2.94	
PENNY	634	1	144	70.0	4.2	3.4	5.3	81.3	6.64	2.83	
LADY	610	2	138	60.0	5.2	3.8	5.4	81.0	6.75	2.69	
VIRGINI	635	1	91	72.0	3.6	3.2	4.9	76.4	6.28	2.61	
GLORIA	631	1	140	74.0	3.3	3.3	4.9	76.8	6.38	2.57	
MEMPHRE	599	2	298	65.0	4.6	3.6	5.3	81.1	6.91	2.53	
ABILINE	639	1	75	56.0	4.6	3.2	4.4	66.3	5.40	2.32	
INGRID	620	1	252	66.0	3.6	3.6	4.8	74.2	6.53	2.12	
LEVITY	632	1	143	57.0	4.7	3.5	4.7	70.8	6.16	2.09	
IVY	603	2	281	62.0	4.8	3.7	5.3	79.6	7.19	2.08	
EILEEN	598	2	337	52.0	4.8	4.0	4.6	69.3	6.49	1.59	
ARROW	626	1	262	48.0	4.1	3.4	3.6	55.1	5.54	0.88	
EVA	622	1	272	44.0	4.6	3.2	3.4	51.5	5.64	0.36	
*****	39 cow average for major group 01 (HO , HO) Breed	2	173	82.0	4.1	3.4	6.2	94.2	7.21	+3.77	*****
CORVAIR	615	2	71	76.0	6.1	3.4	7.2	106.0	6.23	6.12	
CHEVY	565	3	308	50.0	5.5	4.6	5.0	75.6	6.35	2.46	
CHEVELL	638	1	74	52.0	3.9	2.9	3.5	53.9	4.26	2.01	

019 - PRODUCTION - Income Over Feed Cost

ANDY & SARAH BIRCH - 13104548  
Ref:02-22

Barn Name	Index	Days Lct No.	Curr In Milk	Curr T.D. Milk	Curr T.D. %Fat	Curr T.D. %Prt	Curr T.D. Prot	Curr T.D. MCM	Curr (Est) Feed\$	Curr (Est) IOFC\$	
*****	3 cow average for major group 02 (JE , JE) Breed	2	151	59.3	5.3	3.6	5.3	78.5	5.61	+3.53	*****
SENECA	601	2	283	52.0	4.3	3.7	4.2	63.6	6.30	1.11	
SHASTA	627	1	199	36.0	4.9	4.0	3.2	48.7	5.38	0.29	
*****	2 cow average for major group 03 (BS , BS) Breed	2	241	44.0	4.6	3.8	3.7	56.2	5.84	+0.70	*****
***Averages for	44 animals ( 86% of herd) ***	2	175	78.7	4.1	3.4	6.0	91.4	7.03	+3.61	

Questions based on this spreadsheet

1. How is this page sorted?
2. Which cow is making the farmer the most money?
3. Which cow is making the least amount of money per day?
4. What is the Hermione's herd number?
5. Which cow has the highest "days in milk"?
6. How many 4<sup>th</sup> lactation cows are listed? If they freshened at 2 years old...how old do you estimate they would be?
7. Which Jersey is making the most money? And why?



015 - Stall Cards - Whole Herd

ANDY & SARAH BIRCH - 13104548  
Ref:11-16

Barn	Birth	Lot	Calv	Sire	Dam	Type	C	Bred	Service
Name	Index	Date	No.	Date	Name	Scor	Br	E	Due Date / AI Code
ABILINE	639	02/21/19	1	12/10/20	ACCELCCHNC	ALMA	2	PV	03/02 12/07 2AN613
ALABAMA	618	04/06/18	2	03/31/21	HANG-TIME	ALAMO	1	PV	06/04 03/11 PIERRE-P
ALLSTAR	613	01/29/18	2	12/06/20	ROOKIE	ALMA	3	PV	06/10 03/17 14AN557
AQUA	614	03/01/18	2	01/04/21	FLAGSHIP	OBSIDIA	1	PV	03/05 12/10 2AN613
ARROW	626	06/23/18	2	05/13/21	DRAGONHRT	ANTHEM	1	PV	08/13 05/20 PIERRE-P
BEVERLY	597	05/25/17	3	01/20/21	LEMONHEAD	BRIDGET	1	PV	03/26 12/30 7LM20
CAPRICE	508	05/13/14	6	02/27/21	RILEY	COBRA	5	P	09/16 06/22 SALSA-P
CHARM	616	03/18/18	2	01/04/21	LUCKY-PP-	ONYX	1	PV	03/05 12/10 RAGER-RED
CHEROKE	643	04/28/19	1	05/29/21	DYNAMITE	SENECA	1	PV	07/29 05/15 PAPARAZZI
CHEVELL	638	02/12/19	1	12/11/20	CHROME	CAPRICE	2	PV	04/02 01/06 DIMITRI-P
CHEVY	565	05/18/16	4	06/01/21	CITATION	COBRA			
DANICA	636	12/31/18	1	05/01/21	DYNAMITE	DESSY	1	PV	07/01 04/17 PAPARAZZI
DOLLY	647	07/27/19	1	06/28/21	BODACIOUS	DAKOTA	2	P	09/15 07/02 9AN578
EDITH	604	09/07/17	3	06/26/21	MONTANA	MINDY	80	3	10/14 07/21 9AN578
EILEEN	598	06/07/17	3	06/05/21	HANG-TIME	ELVIRA	79	1	PV 08/06 05/13 14AN557
FANFARE	600	07/04/17	3	07/08/21	MILLER-P	HARMONY	80	K	
FRIEDA	624	06/04/18	1	04/23/20	MENTHOL	SNOOPY		C	
GLORIA	631	11/07/18	2	09/11/21	ACCELVINO	GERTIE	1		11/12 08/19 9HO578
GOBBLE	607	11/26/17	3	11/09/21	FLAGSHIP	PEEP			
GOLD	651	08/29/19	1	07/30/21	EUREKA	RUBY	1	P	09/30 07/07 9AN578
HEDWIG	580	01/04/17	4	08/13/21	SPARK	QUAFFLE	85	2	11/07 08/14 BOLD
HELGA	653	10/04/19	1	08/16/21	RIO	HEDWIG	1	P	10/14 07/21 9AN578
HERMION	630	10/28/18	1	08/27/20	ACCELVINO	HEDWIG	4	PV	02/21 11/28 FURY
INGRID	620	04/22/18	2	05/06/21	HANG-TIME	IRENE		C	
IRENE	568	06/11/16	4	03/08/21	SPARK	LEONE	82	2	PV 05/28 03/04 14AN557
IRMA	658	12/18/19	1	11/16/21	DRASTIC-P	IRIS			
IVY	603	07/20/17	3	06/29/21	MILLER-P	INDY	77	1	PV 09/03 06/10 9AN578
JACKIE	606	10/04/17	3	06/28/21	MONTANA	LETTY	2	P	10/14 07/21 9AN578
JEAN	650	08/17/19	1	08/11/21	DRASTIC-P	JACKIE	1	P	10/14 07/21 9AN578
JOLENE	625	06/13/18	2	05/02/21	HANG-TIME	JUNIPER	1	PV	07/02 04/08 14AN557
LADY	610	12/21/17	3	10/05/21	LUCKY-PP-	LAURA			
LATTE	654	10/16/19	1	11/08/21	COFFEE	LEIA			
LEAP	648	08/07/19	1	06/09/21	EUREKA	LOLLY	1	PV	08/12 05/19 9AN578
LEVITY	632	11/12/18	2	09/02/21	HANG-TIME	LEIA	1		11/05 08/12 BIGSHOT
LIME	633	11/22/18	1	01/28/21	JALAPENO	LOCAS	1	PV	04/01 01/06 PIERRE-P
LOCAS	1249	12/12/12	7	01/03/21	UMERO UNO	LELEE	91	CR	
MAGOG	644	05/09/19	1	04/19/21	ODIN	MEMPHRE	1	PV	06/17 03/24 FURY
MARBLE	566	05/25/16	4	10/22/21	SPARK	PERIDOT	82		
MEMPHRE	599	06/18/17	3	05/24/21	ZIPIT-P	MERICA	80	2	P 09/23 06/30 9AN578
PEARL	645	05/23/19	1	04/19/21	SIMPLICIT	MARBLE	1	PV	06/17 03/24 PIERRE-P
PEEP	553	01/26/16	4	12/17/20	PETY	TWEET	85	1	PV 02/19 11/26 2AN613
PENNY	634	11/28/18	2	10/05/21	RIO	WHEATY			
PESO	659	12/27/19	1	11/08/21	HUMBLNKND	WHEATY			
RASCAL	577	11/29/16	3	12/08/20	ARDENT	RAY	82	1	PV 02/12 11/19 AN613
RITA	637	01/15/19	1	12/27/20	RIO	RASCAL	1	PV	02/25 12/02 FURY
RUBY	545	07/13/15	5	08/22/21	SKYMONT	TOPAZ	83	1	10/21 07/28 9AN578
SALSA	523	11/03/14	6	08/08/21	ADD P-RED	SPRITZ	85	C	
SENECA	601	07/08/17	3	09/11/21	BRUTE	SANDY	1		11/12 08/29 PAPARAZZI
SHANIA	590	03/12/17	3	01/26/21	DRAGONHRT	SOCHI	83	6	P 10/09 07/16 9AN578

Search to find the answers to the following:

1. What is Magog's fresh date (calving date)?
2. Who is Chevy's sire?
3. Which animals are coded as culls "C" or "CR" on the code list?
4. Which animal is bred to Rager-Red?
5. What does the "AN" mean in the breed code (i.e. 2AN613)?
6. What breed of bull is Beverly bred to?
7. How many animals only took one service to settle?
8. Which animal on this list was bred the most times before settling?
9. What is the difference between "P" and "PV" in the code (CDE) column?
10. Why might this farmer have chosen to breed so many of the animals to Angus bulls?



---

---

# Resources to check out!

To guide your deeper research into record keeping or dairy herd management

**Vermont DHIA** (part of Lancaster DHIA)

*Vermont DHIA Office*, 220 Holiday Drive, Suite 22, White River Junction, VT 05001 / **1-800-639-8067**

**Dairy One**

Kim Gregory, Mountain Region manager / [kim.gregory@dairyone.com](mailto:kim.gregory@dairyone.com) / 518-572-2395

**Country Folks magazine** <https://countryfolks.com> VTDHIA and Dairy One monthly production reports

broken out by county. See how farmers in your area are producing!

