

The Need for Applied Research and Decision Support Tools in Dairy Farm Management and Decision-Making

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2011 ADSA Foundation Scholar Lecture

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Outline

- 1. Brief Professional Background
- 2. Disconnection between Research and Extension
- 3. The Need for Decision Support Tools
- 4. Decision Support Tools Examples
- 5. Tools Usage Statistics

Professional Background

a. Education

1991	BS	Agronomy-Sciences	La Molina, Lima
1993	Engineer	Agricultural Production	La Molina, Lima
1995	Diploma	Ag. Schools Management	Madrid – Paris
1999	MS	Farming Systems / Extension	Univ. of Florida
2004	PhD	Ecology / Economics	Univ. of Florida
2006	PostDoc	Farm Risk Decision-Making	Univ. of Miami

Professional Background

b. Work Experience

1993-94	Limatambo Farm, Peru	Farm Manager
1994-97	Valle Grande Rural Institute, Peru	Extension Agent
1999-01	Inter-American Development Bank, Peru	Extension Program Planner
2006-08	New Mexico State University	Assistant Professor, Extension Dairy Specialist
2008- Present	University of Wisconsin-Madison	Assistant Professor, Extension Dairy Specialist

Professional Background

d. Career Highlights

- > Highly Interdisciplinary Research and Extension
- Participatory and Inclusive Work
- Integrated Farm Systems Approaches
- > Applied Research Built on Fundamental Research
- Product and Impact Oriented
- Practical and Customizable Decision Support Tools

a. A New (Old) Paradigm

- Basic/fundamental research may not address current farm needs
- > Cutting edge research may not be ready to be directly used onfarm decision-making

Need for better integration

b. Systems Approach

- > Application of latest discoveries in one area of management will have impacts in other areas of management
- > Fundamental research is highly specific

Need for integrated system approach

- c. Wealth of Scientific Information and Low and Slow Level of Adoption
- ➤ Highly valuable scientific information exists and it's being updated permanently
- > Not all this information is being applied for dairy farm decision-making

Need for feedback from each other to have improved on-farm impact

- d. Skepticism about Improved Management Technologies and Overall Farm Impacts
- Most basic research is performed in experimental facilities
- > Research results not always could be replicated on-farm
- > Farmers look for "validation" and on-farm results

Need for continued and increased on-farm research

e. Practical Commercial Farm Conditions

- > Farm-level decisions are usually based on:
 - > Economics
 - Regulations
 - > Overall farmers' goals...
- ➤ Management technologies have different value depending on farm and market conditions

Messages need to be custom-tailored to farm, policy, and market conditions

- a. Dairy Farms are Complex IntegratedSystems
- Multiple, complex, and variable relationships among multiple components of dairy farm systems are dynamic
- > Every component of a dairy farm system affects and it is affected for multiple other components

DST can greatly help projecting multiple impacts of selected management strategies

b. Dairy Farms are Unique Farm Systems

- > Each dairy farm is unique and different
- Management strategies have different impacts for different farms

DST can assess the impacts according to specific farm conditions

c. Prices are more Variable than ever

- ➤ Milk and feed prices as well as other dairy farm prices are highly variable
- ➤ Management strategies have completely different impacts under different market conditions

DST can evaluate the impacts under projected market and prices conditions

d. Changes in Rules and Regulations

- > Farm management strategies are not isolated from changing rules and regulations
- Government policy, industry regulations, and even consumer perceptions are important to shape farmers decisions

DST can include rules, regulations, and changing business environment for optimal farm management strategies

Decision Support Tools Examples



Management Tools



A collection of state-of-the-art dairy management tool that are: user-friendly, interactive, robust, visually attractive, and self-contained. All these tools have clear or self-explanatory instructions and technical support available.

Click on the Tool title to learn more

Feeding

- Optigen® Evaluator
- 1 Income Over Feed Supplement Cost
- The 4-State Dairy Extension Feed Cost Evaluator
- **9** Corn Feeding Strategies
- 9 Income Over Feed Cost
- Dairy Ration Feed Additive Break-Even Analysis

Heifers

Documento (Descargar) Spanish Version (Colombia) Herramienta (Abrir) Documento (Descargar) Chinese Version Gongjù (Kaifàng) Wéndàng (Xiàzài) Heifer Replacement **(ii)** €thension Calculates the number of heifers needed as replacement to maintain constant the herd size in the long-term Excel SpreadSheet (Download) Online (Open) Documentation (Download) Demo (Click to View/Hide the Video) (i) Elitension Calculates the total cost of raising heifers in three points in time: at 12 months, 24 months, and after 24 months Excel SpreadSheet (Download) Online (Open) Documentation (Download) Demo (Click to View/Hide the Video) Reproduction

9 Economic Value of Sexed Semen Programs for Dairy Heifers

Estimates the difference of the net present value of various sexed semen reproductive programs and a conventional semen reproductive program for dairy heifers

Flash Online Tool (Play)

Flash Offline Tool (Download)

Instructions (Download)

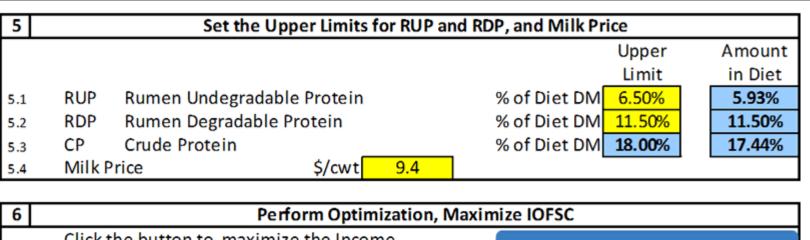
Documentation (Download)

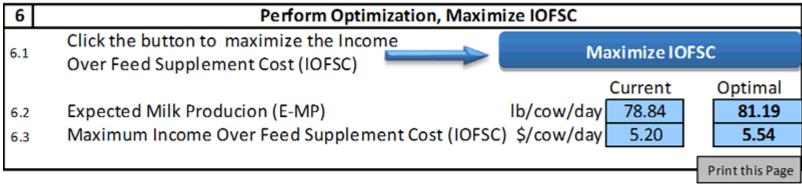
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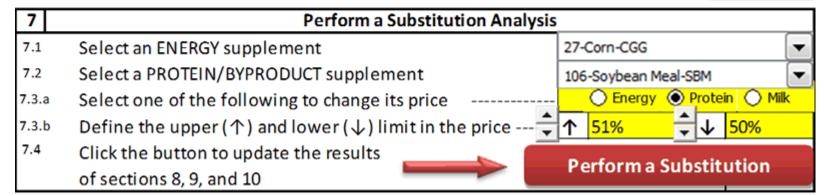
Decision Support Tools Examples

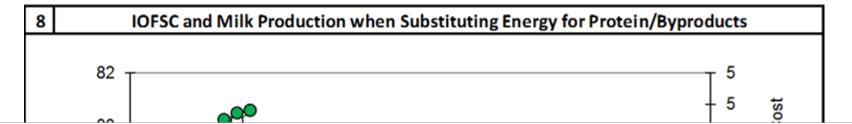
a. Nutrition and Feeding

- > The most important economic factors in a dairy farm system are milk value and feed costs
- Therefore, managing and optimizing the Income Over Feed Cost (IOFC) is critical
- > Beyond established farm rations, farmers need to permanently adjust feeding strategic decisions
 - Marginal value of corn in the diet
 - Evaluation of diet protein supplementation
 - Benchmarking IOFC ...











(Ctrl + Click to Make Multiple Selection)

Standardized Farm/Mailbox

Analyze

Clear Selections

Download Summary

Net Summary

Farms Analyzed 10

Farm Statistics

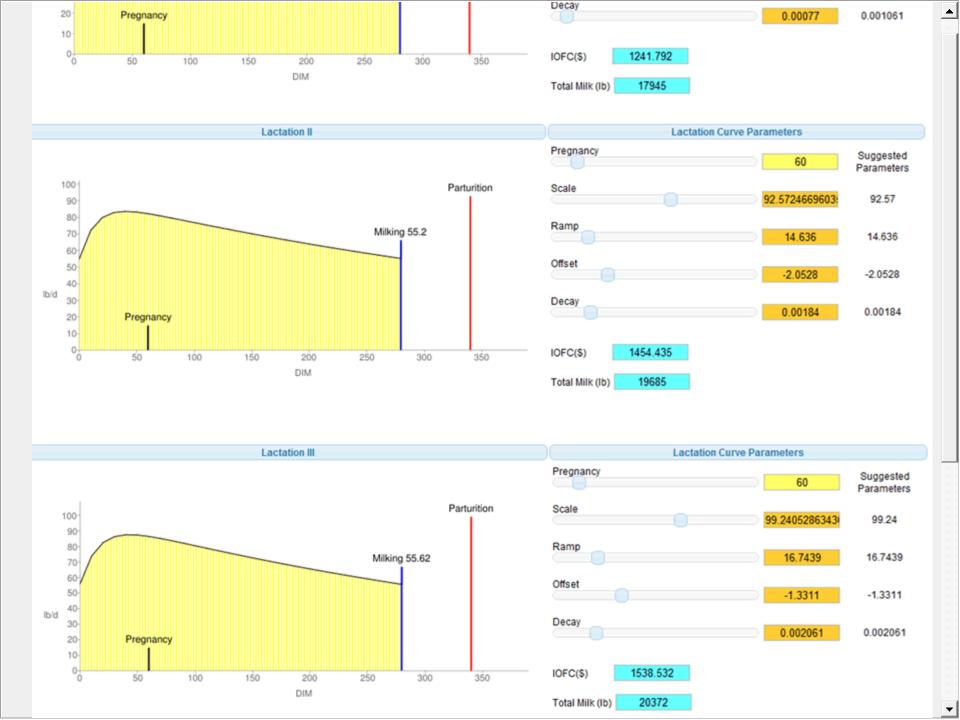
Farm Parameters	Min	25% Tile	Mean	75% Tile	Max
Milk Bulk Tank(lb/cow/day)	55	60	68.9	75	85
Milk Butterfat(%)	3.4	3.5	3.53	3.6	3.6
Milk Protein(%)	3	3.1	3.16	3.2	3.3
Milk Price(\$/cwt)	13.8	13.8	14.37	14.8	15.2
Milk Revenue(\$/cow/day)	7.59	8.88	9.92	11.33	12.92

Summary	Milking							Dry			
	Min	25% Tile	Mean	75% Tile	Max	Min	25% Tile	Mean	75% Tile	Max	
DMI (lb/cow/day)	41	49	51.2	56	59	25		33.25		39	
MILK/DMI	1.09	1.31	1.35	1.43	1.45						
FCM	51.7	51.7	64.03	69.38	79.9						
ECM	55.32	61.19	68.97	75	86.09						
FCM/DMI	1.01	1.01	1.25	1.33	1.35						
ECM/DMI	1.08	1.32	1.35	1.45	1.46						
Forage Costs (\$/cow/day)	1.81	2.32	2.62	2.99	3.53	0	0	2.39	2.35	2.79	
Energy Costs (\$/cow/day)	1.26	1.44	1.56	1.67	1.79	0	0	0.05	0	0.19	
Mineral Costs (\$/cow/day)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Purchased Feed Cost (\$/cow/day)	0	0.51	1.62	3.13	4.22	0.85		1.51		2.35	
U O F I O (A) (I)		0.00	0.55	0.5	E 00			0.00		4.4.4	

Decision Support Tools Examples

b. Reproductive Efficiency

- Reproductive efficiency plays a critical role in the economics of a dairy herd
- Evaluate the economic value of reproductive programs is difficult and complex
- More important than the investment in reproductive programs is the economic benefit of having cows pregnant at the right time
- > Normally, better reproductive efficiency is associated with greater economic benefit, but it needs to be quantified





UW-Dairy Repro\$

Victor E. Cabrera & Julio O. Giordano

Department of Dairy Science



Farm Name

Location

Wisconsin

1. Productive Parameters

Lactating Cows	(#)	1,000		
Rolling Herd Average (RHA)	(lb/cow/y)	28000 🔻		
Involuntary Culling Rate	(%/y)	14.3%		
Mortality Rate	(%/y)	7.0%		
Stillbirth Rate	(%)	8.5%		

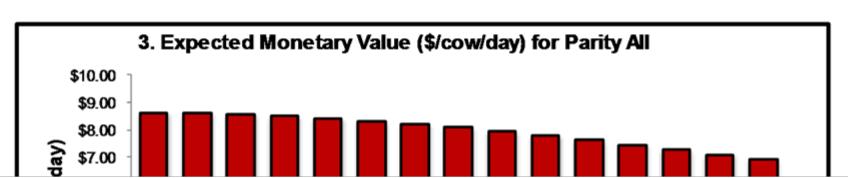


United States Department of Agriculture National Institution of Food and Agriculture

2. Lactation Curves Lact. 1 Lact. 2 Lact. > 2

Cow N	Number	383	254	363
Body Wei	ght (lb/cow)	1,350	1,400	1,450
Test	DIM	✓ Define L	actation Cu	ves Below
1	15	77	105	107
2	45	91	120	126
3	75	94	120	128
4	105	94	116	125
5	135	93	112	120
6	165	91	107	112
7	195	89	98	104
8	225	87	91	94
9	255	83	82	86
10	285	79	75	81
11	315	76	68	71
12	345	72	61	61





13	0.01			0.11	0.13	0.16	0.19	0.23	0.27	0.33	0.03	13.03	-6.91	0.00	66.52	
14	0.01				0.11	0.13	0.16	0.19	0.22	0.27	0.02	0.47	-5.37	0.00	54.08	
15	0.00					0.11	0.13	0.15	0.19	0.22	0.01	-8.44	-4.10	0.00	44.37	
16	0.00						0.11	0.13	0.15	0.18	0.01	-14.17	-3.05	0.00	36.57	
17	0.00							0.10	0.13	0.15	0.00	 -17.51	-2.18	0.00	30.16	
18	0.00								0.10	0.12	0.00	-19.11	-1.41	0.00	24.85	
19	0.00									0.10	0.00	-8.57	-0.68	0.00	20.41	
20											0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
21											0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
22											0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
23											0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
24											0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
25											0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
					Lacta	tion 2					Cull Cows	IOFC	Cull	Repro	Calves	
1	2.28										0.05	511.49	-25.50	0.00	0.00	
2	2.23										0.06	600.82	-28.99	55.76	0.00	
3	1.78	0.39									0.05	565.30	-22.00	44.50	0.00	
4	1.43	0.31	0.39								0.05	518.88	-22.03	35.63	0.00	
5	1.15	0.25	0.31	0.37							0.04	473.22	-21.72	28.75	0.00	
6	0.93	0.20	0.25	0.30	0.36						0.04	430.58	-21.15	23.33	0.00	
7	0.76	0.16	0.20	0.24	0.29	0.35					0.04	387.76	-20.92	18.99	0.00	
8	0.62	0.13	0.16	0.19	0.23	0.28	0.34				0.05	345.93	-22.27	15.44	0.00	
9	0.50	0.11	0.13	0.15	0.18	0.22	0.27	0.33			0.05	305.46	-25.16	12.48	0.00	
10	0.40	0.08	0.11	0.12	0.15	0.18	0.22	0.27	0.33		0.06	198.64	-28.42	9.96	0.00	
11	0.31	0.07	0.08	0.10	0.12	0.14	0.18	0.21	0.26	0.32	0.06	117.31	-29.75	7.79	63.33	
12	0.24	0.05	0.07	0.08	0.10	0.12	0.14	0.17	0.21	0.25	0.05	81.97	-25.54	0.00	50.70	
13	0.22		0.05	0.06	0.08	0.09	0.11	0.14	0.17	0.20	0.05	55.90	-23.83	0.00	40.43	
14	0.20			0.05	0.06	0.08	0.09	0.11	0.14	0.16	0.05	36.16	-21.98	0.00	32.48	
15	0.17				0.05	0.06	0.07	0.09	0.11	0.13	0.04	21.43	-19.54	0.00	26.26	
16	0.14					0.05	0.06	0.07	0.09	0.11	0.15	10.84	-16.82	0.00	21.30	
17	0.00						0.04	0.06	0.07	0.09	0.01	-5.93	-3.45	0.00	17.20	
	_									Ϋ́						<u> </u>

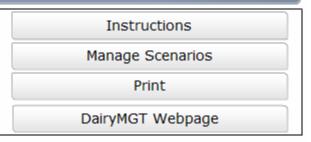
Economic Value of Sexed Semen Programs for Dairy Heifers

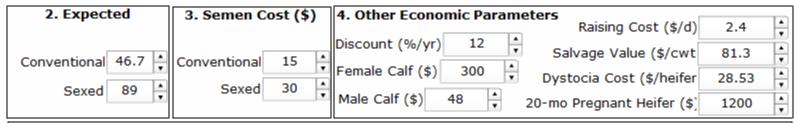
Victor E. Cabrera, vcabrera@wisc.edu, 608-265-8506

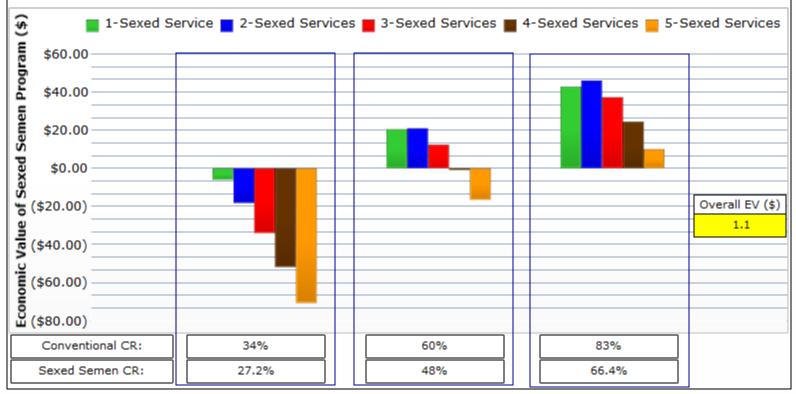
1. Conception Rates (CR)

Low CR 34 Average CR 60 High CR 83

1.b. Sexed Semen CR (% of Conventional CR)





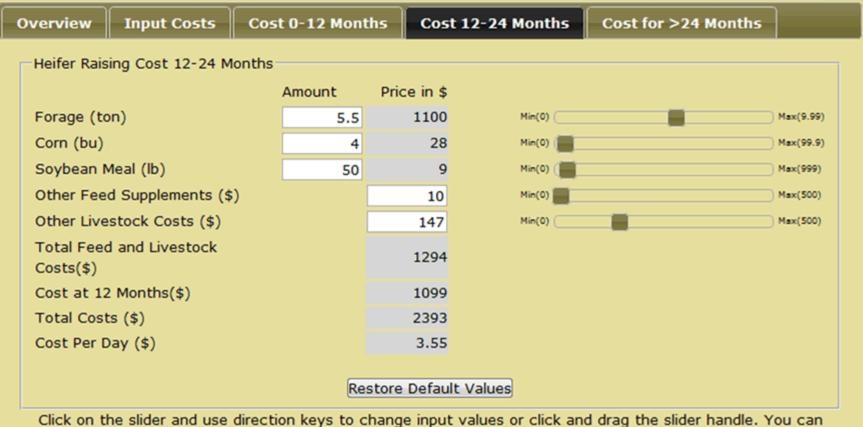


Decision Support Tools Examples

c. Heifer Mgt. and Cow Replacement

- Heifers and replacement decisions are also essential for successful dairy farming
- Whether farmers raise their heifers on-farm or not, they need to make decisions regarding heifer rearing
 - Cost of raising heifers
 - Heifer alternative feeding systems
- Farmers want to know the required and projected supply of heifers as well as the value to sell or buy a replacement

Heifer Breakeven Tool



Click on the slider and use direction keys to change input values or click and drag the slider handle. You can enter inputs directly for values outside the ranges provided by the sliders.

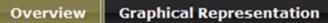
Print this page

Graphs

Graphs displayed below are continuously updated with changes in the inputs.

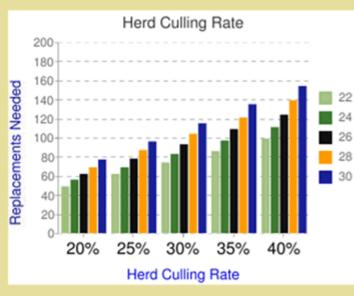
93

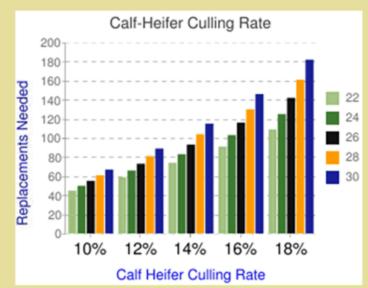
Required Replacement Animals



Tabular Representation

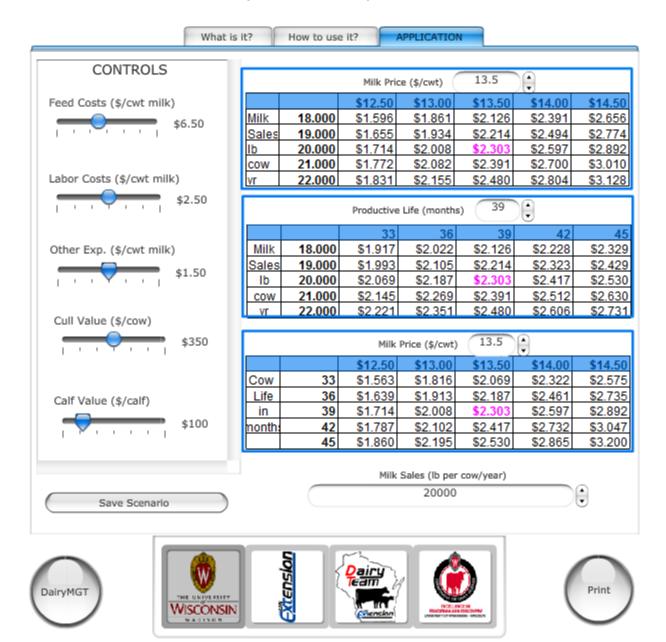






Calculate the Value of a Cow

Victor E. Cabrera, 608-265-8506, vcabrera@wisc.edu



Decision Support Tools Examples

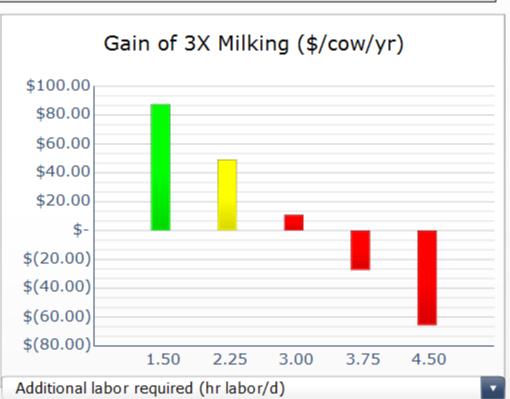
d. Production

- Production benchmarking could lead to understand strengths and weaknesses of dairy farm systems
- ➤ Decision support tools can greatly help to evaluate strategic decisions aimed to enhance productivity or production:
 - Increasing the frequency of milking
 - Using bST
 - Modernize or expand the herd

Economic Analysis of Switching from 2X to 3X Milking

Calculates the economic benefit (or loss) of a change in the milking frequency from 2 times a day (2X) to 3 times a day (3X) based on user-input parameters





Inputs	
Milk Price (\$ per cwt)	\$15.00
Feed Cost (\$ per lb of DM)	\$0.09
Labor Cost (\$ per Hour)	\$12.00
Bulk Tank Butterfat (%)	3.6%
Average Body Weight per Cow (lbs)	1500
Miscellaneous Enterprise Expenses (\$ per Year)	\$200,000.00
Percentage of Heifer Calves	49%
Cattle Purchasing & Sales	

Decision Support Tools Examples

e. Financial Assessment and Price Risk Mgt.

- Farm financial benchmarking is critical to assess the financial health of a farm and decide on measures of improvement
- Large economic uncertainty due to prices variability threatens long term sustainability of dairy farm business

Wisconsin Dairy Farm Ratio Benchmarking

Victor E. Cabrera & Jenny Vanderlin



WISCONSIN







Year 2000 **▼**

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Herd Size



Inc/Cow



Milk/Cow



Overview	Liquidity	Solvency	Profitablility	Repayment	Efficiency	Du Pont	Summary	Definitions	
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Ratio	Wisconsin Ratio	Your Ratio	Percentile
Current Ratio (CR)	5.56	1.5	22
Net Working Capital (NWC)	141797.08	50000	26
Debt/Asset Ratio (D/A)	24.16	35	28
Equity Asset Ratio (E/A)	77.86	65	24
Net Farm Income (NFI)	28614.42	50000	86
Return on Farm Assets (ROROA)	5.14	6	74
Return on Farm Equity (ROROE)	1.6	5	76
Operating Profit Margin (OPM)	5.92	15	70
Term Debt Coverage Ratio (TDCR)	152.34	140	58
Replacement Margin (RM)	18381.32	50000	84
Asset Turnover Ratio (ATO)	36.9	40	80
Operating Expenses Ratio (OER)	67.7	70	38
Depreciation Expenses Ratio (DER)	11.1	10	60
Interest Expense Ratio (IER)	3.48	8	16
Net Farm Income Ratio (NFIR)	18.94	15	36

Software Overview

Premium Estimator

Least Cost Optimizer

Bundled Options (Beta)

If you have saved CSV data from a previous run, you can upload it instead of typing in your farm's data again

Upload a file

Input

Insurance contract month: 2011 Jul

Choose your deductible level \$ 1.0 ▼/cwt

Feed Values:

Enter Manually

Lowest Allowed

Default Hig

Highest Allowed

The prices we use for the Gross Margin Calculation correspond to future and option prices retrieved on the trade dates: 2011-06-22, 2011-06-23, 2011-06-24

Coverage Month	Pro	duction (cwt)		om Equiv (tons)	Soybean Meal Equiv (tons)		% covered	ed Monthly Gross Margin		rgin
Month Year	Milk Qty.	Covered Milk × Expected Price = Milk Revenue	Corn Qty.	Covered Corn × Expected Price = Corn Cost	SBM Qty.	Covered SBM × Expected Price = SBM Cost		Milk Revenue - Corn Cost - SBM Cost - (Deductible × Milk Qty.)	\$/cwt of Farm Milk	\$/cwt of Covered Milk
Sep 2011	4113	4,113 cwt × \$18.30/cwt = \$75,266	95.8	95.8 tons × \$6.66/bu = \$22,785	21.1	21.1 tons × \$341.96/ton = \$7,215	100	41,152	10.01	10.01
Oct 2011	4340	4,340 cwt × \$17.63/cwt = \$76,511	101.1	101.1 tons × \$6.58/bu = \$23,769	22.3	22.3 tons × \$339.16/ton = \$7,563	100	40,839	9.41	9.41
Nov 2011	4188	4,188 cwt × \$17.24/cwt = \$72,198	97.6	97.6 tons × \$6.51/bu = \$22,678	21.5	21.5 tons × \$339.64/ton = \$7,302	100	38,029	9.08	9.08
✓ Dec 2011	4240	4,240 cwt × \$16.97/cwt = \$71,949	98.8	98.8 tons × \$6.43/bu = \$22,686	21.8	21.8 tons × \$340.12/ton = \$7,414	100	37,608	8.87	8.87
☑ Jan 2012	4188	4,188 cwt × \$16.63/cwt = \$69.642	97.6	97.6 tons × \$6.47/bu = \$22.550	21.5	21.5 tons × \$341.79/ton = \$7.348	100	35,556	8.49	8.49

Insurance contract month: 2011 Jun 🗷

Choose your deductible level \$ 1.0 ▼ /cwt

Feed Values: Enter Manually Lowest Allowed Default Highest Allowed

Target NIOFC: \$ 5.0 /cwt

Coverage Month	Pr	oduction (cwt)		rn Equiv (tons)	Soybean Meal Equiv (tons)		% covered	Monthly Gross Margin		argin
Month Year	Milk Qty.	Covered Milk × Expected Price = Milk Revenue	Corn Qty.	Covered Corn × Expected Price = Corn Cost	SBM Qty.	Covered SBM × Expected Price = SBM Cost		Milk Revenue - Corn Cost - SBM Cost - (Deductible × Milk Qty.)	\$/cwt of Farm Milk	\$/cwt of Covered Milk
✓ Aug 2011	4113	4,113 cwt × \$19.02/cwt = \$78,229	95.8	95.8 tons × \$6.7 1/bu = \$22,957	21.1	21.1 tons × \$343.50/ton = \$7,247	100	43,910	10.68	10.68
☑ Sep 2011	4340	4,340 cwt × \$18.30/cwt = \$79,421	101.1	101.1 tons × \$6.66/bu = \$24,047	22.3	22.3 tons × \$341.96/ton = \$7,625	100	43,408	10.00	10.00
☑ Oct 2011	4188	4,188 cwt × \$17.63/cwt = \$73,834	97.6	97.6 tons × \$6.58/bu = \$22,935	21.5	21.5 tons × \$339.16/ton = \$7,291	100	39,418	9.41	9.41
▼ Nov 2011	4240	4,104 cwt × \$17.24/cwt = \$70,758	98.8	95.6 tons × \$6.51/bu = \$22,235	21.8	21.1 tons × \$339.64/ton = \$7,167	96.8	37,251	8.79	9.08
☑ Dec 2011	4188	1,846 cwt × \$16.97/cwt = \$31,342	97.6	43.0 tons × \$6.43/bu = \$9,884	21.5	9.5 tons × \$340.12/ton = \$3,224	44.1	16,386	3.91	8.87
☑ Jan 2012	4023	0 cwt × \$16.63/cwt = \$0	93.7	0.0 tons × \$6.47/bu = \$0	20.7	0.0 tons × \$341.79/ton = \$0	0	0	NA	NA
▼ Feb 2012	4075	146 cwt × \$16.41/cwt = \$2,407	94.9	3.4 tons × \$6.51/bu = \$794	20.9	0.8 tons × \$342.82/ton = \$257	3.6	1,208	0.30	8.24
✓ Mar 2012	4038	1,158 cwt × \$16.43/cwt = \$19,040	94.1	27.0 tons × \$6.55/bu = \$6,317	20.8	5.0 tons × \$343.85/ton = \$2,052	28.7	9,511	2.36	8.21
✓ Apr 2012	4063	495 cwt × \$16.29/cwt = \$8,074	94.7	11.6 tons × \$6.58/bu = \$2,715	20.9	2.5 tons × \$343.62/ton = \$876	12.2	3,987	0.98	8.05
✓ May 2012	4149	2,319 cwt × \$16.24/cwt = \$37,665	96.7	54.1 tons × \$6.62/bu = \$12,780	21.3	11.9 tons × \$343.38/ton = \$4,088	55.9	18,477	4.45	7.97
Total Farm Covered		,417 cwt ,712 cwt		65 tons 29 tons		12 tons 16 tons	54.84%	GMG 213,560	5.16	9.40

■ Save GMG Calculations

Optimize Coverages for Least Cost Premium

■ Save Input

Calculate LGM Premium

Calculate Options Cost

Some Statistics of Tools Usage

→ Visitors Since March 2, 2011 = 9,227

> Tools Downloads Since March 2, 2011 ~ 5,516 (~60%)					
Financial Benchmark	848	Heifer Breakeven	398		
Heifer Replacement	282	LGM Related Tools	780		
Repro Analysis	638	Optigen	290		
Pregnancy	139	Expansion	176		
Corn Feeding	150	IOFC	57		
Accelerated Feeding	44	UW Dairy Repro	423		
Lactation Benchmark	248	bST	30		
Sexed Semen	85	Others	928		

Some Statistics of Tools Usage

Country	%
United States	61.12
India	3.36
Mexico	3.23
Canada	2.89
Australia	2.12
Argentina	1.59
Philippines	1.40
Italy	1.28
Peru	1.25
Brazil	1.24
Other 114 Countries	20.52



9,061 Visits from 123 Countries

Page/Visit: 3.53

% New Visits: 61.59%

Thanks













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