

LDY's: the good get better

The Lifetime Daily Yield (LDY) value published by NMR for all cows is increasingly used as a benchmark that reflects high performance cows. To get a good score a cow needs to produce average or higher yields, have very few days off sick and get back in calf on time. "It's a great reflection of healthy, fertile and productive cows - the sort of cows we're all striving to have in our herds," says NMR's Ben Bartlett. "It appears that the top 40% of herds



High LDY cows have fewer days off sick

Table 1: LDY average for NMR herds split into percentiles May 2011 compared with May 2010

banding percentiles	Lifetime Yield Average (litres per day)	
	May '10	May '11
1-10	14.59	14.72
11-20	13.26	13.37
21-30	12.57	12.63
31-40	11.98	12.00
41-50	11.47	11.42
51-60	10.93	10.85
61-70	10.30	10.14
71-80	9.54	9.34
81-90	8.54	8.22
91-100	6.28	6.23

are improving LDY this year whereas the bottom 60% shows a drop in values," says Mr Bartlett. "Also when we look at production, the average annual yield for a 200-cow herd in the top 10% is 1.075m litres compared with 0.454m litres for a 200-cow herd in the bottom 10%. In general, those herds with a higher LDY will be the more efficient and more profitable herds."

To keep track of LDY all NMR customers can view their performance through the Herd Companion option 'Lifetime Yield Monitor'. It is possible here to see herd LDY by lactation and year-on-year trends as well as individual cow results.

Top 100 tonners

Another group of NMR cows has hit the 100 tonne marker this month. Here's the top three ranked on lifetime daily yield.

- 1 Newroddige Shooting Jolene achieved 112,826kg of milk and had a LDY of 29.85kg. She is in Mallaber Partners' herd, Park Farm, Drakelow, Staffordshire.
- 2 304 from Shutt and Mansell's herd, Flash Brook Manor, Newport, Shropshire. This cow yielded 100,442kg of milk with a LDY of 28.95kg.
- 3 367 from B and MJ Richard's herd, Court Farm, Gastard, Wiltshire. She gave 100,773kg of milk with a LDY of 28.41kg.

Top of the breed

Last month NMR published its latest Annual Production Report for the year ending September 2010. Although the Holsteins represent 91% of all NMR recorded lactations, the Jerseys, Ayrshires, Friesians, Shorthorns and Guernseys make up a significant 7.2% of lactations.

The top Jersey herd, with a yield of 7,977kg and 736kg of fat and protein, belongs to the Mahons from Norfolk. Top of the Ayrshires, with 9,024kg of milk and 682kg of fat and protein is run by the Tinkers from Yorkshire and the top Friesian herd is from Nerewater Farm, Cumbria with a yield of 8,638kg of milk and 643kg of fat and protein.

The Martels Guernsey herd yielded 7,961kg and 721kg of fat and protein and John Hayward's Nottinghamshire-based herd gave 8,409kg of milk and 633kg of fat and protein to take top places in their respective breeds.

Full results are available to all NMR customers and can be accessed from the NMR website.

Gold Cup open day

Around 850 visitors – mainly producers and including delegations from New Zealand, Belgium, Beijing and Ireland – made their way to the NMR/RABDF Gold Cup open day on June 29. Hosted by the 2010 Cup winners, Michael and Chris King from Iron Acton near Bristol, visitors saw at first hand the management system for the 600 Holsteins. This includes 325 cows in the milking herd and followers. During the past five years cow numbers

have increased by 25% and the Kings have recently completed a £98k investment in improved housing and new slurry handling facilities.

Of particular interest to visitors was the new heat detection system in operation in the heifer unit where NMR Silent Herdsman collars are used and 3-D movement is detected 24/7 so that heats are picked up accurately and heifers can be served on time, targeting a calving age of two years.

Silent Herdsman collars on heifers at Iron Acton

