

At a Glance... Health: Herd Cell Count Summary

The somatic cell count has proved to be a useful guide to the mastitis situation in a herd.

To evaluate the significance of somatic cell count and consider the causes of any problem requires a broader view than can be provided by single individual counts. The Herd Cell Count Summary report presents information in such a way that herd problems can be identified and related to certain groups, ages and stages of lactation.

The Health Summary Chart will show seasonal changes. High peaks in certain months may or may not relate to a high number of clinical cases. The number of tests above the threshold will indicate whether the peaks are due to very high cell counts in individuals, or a large number of affected cows.

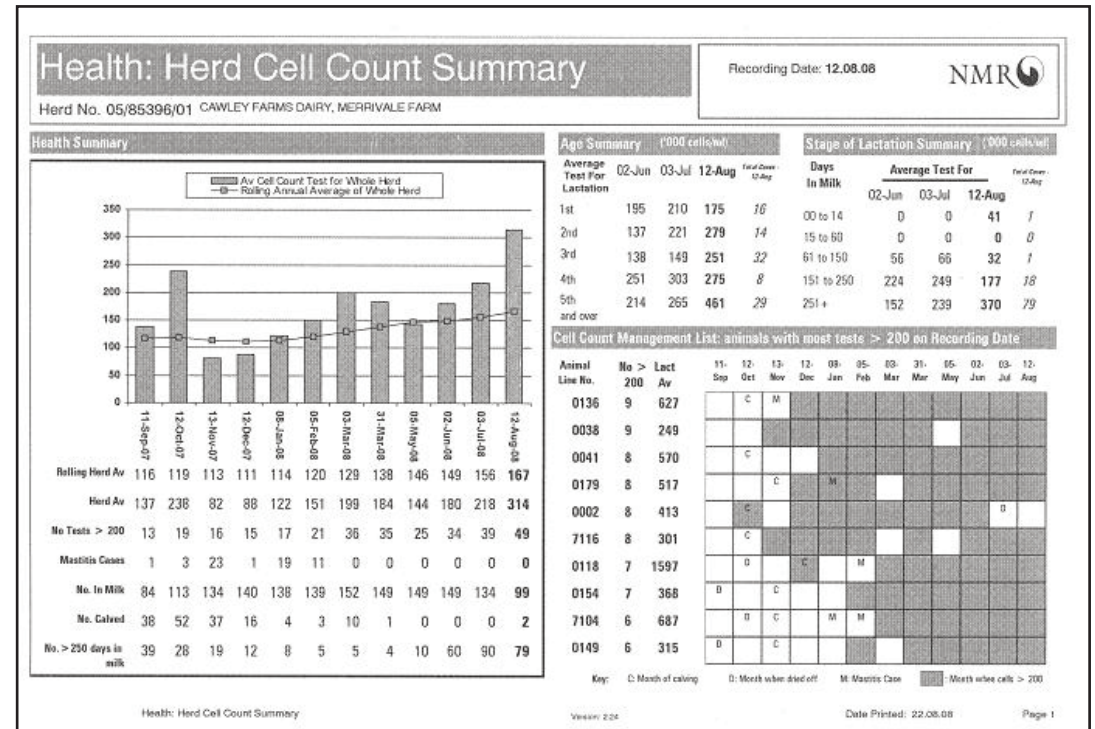
The Age Summary and Stage of Lactation Summary pinpoint the problem cows. The control of any herd mastitis problem must involve the resolution of infected cows and the prevention of new infections. The success of these measures can be assessed in some part by the age distribution and stage of lactation of affected cows. Control policy should be directed at keeping young and fresh calved cows free from infection, whilst reducing the incidence in affected cows by treatment or culling.

The Cell Count Management List highlights the problem cows. These are the animals that require investigation and urgent management decisions. Veterinary advice may be needed to decide on treatment regimes or the need for culling. Bacteriological examination of milk from these cows may give clues to the source of the infections and give a prognosis for cure. Recurrent cases may indicate treatment failures and require further investigation.

This report provides information to the herdsman and any advisor about the mastitis and cell count history of the herd. It will allow an assessment of where problems may exist and evaluate the success of control measures.

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To obtain further copies of 'At a Glance,' contact NMR Customer Services on 0844 7255567.



Key Points	
Frequency	Monthly
Flexible options*	Set your own cells threshold

* Additional copies available for your Vet/Advisor/Other recipient

KEY FEATURES: Herd Cell Count Summary

The Cell Count Summary page provides the overall trends in your herd's cell count results. These help you spot any underlying trends and enable you to monitor the effectiveness of your own mastitis control programme. You can also use this page each month to judge the effect of any management practices you have changed.

AGE SUMMARY

This table shows the average cell count for animals in each lactation group, over the last three months. This helps to spot which cows may be most susceptible and judge the importance of individual counts against their herd mates.

STAGE OF LACTATION

Do your cows tend to have higher counts at a particular stage of lactation? This analysis shows up any overall lactation trends. It helps you judge the significance of an individual animal's result against what is typical in your herd.

The number of cows in each group is shown to help judge the reliability of each figure.

MANAGEMENT LIST

Use this chart to help decide what action (if any) to take with the "worst ten offenders" for persistent high cell counts.

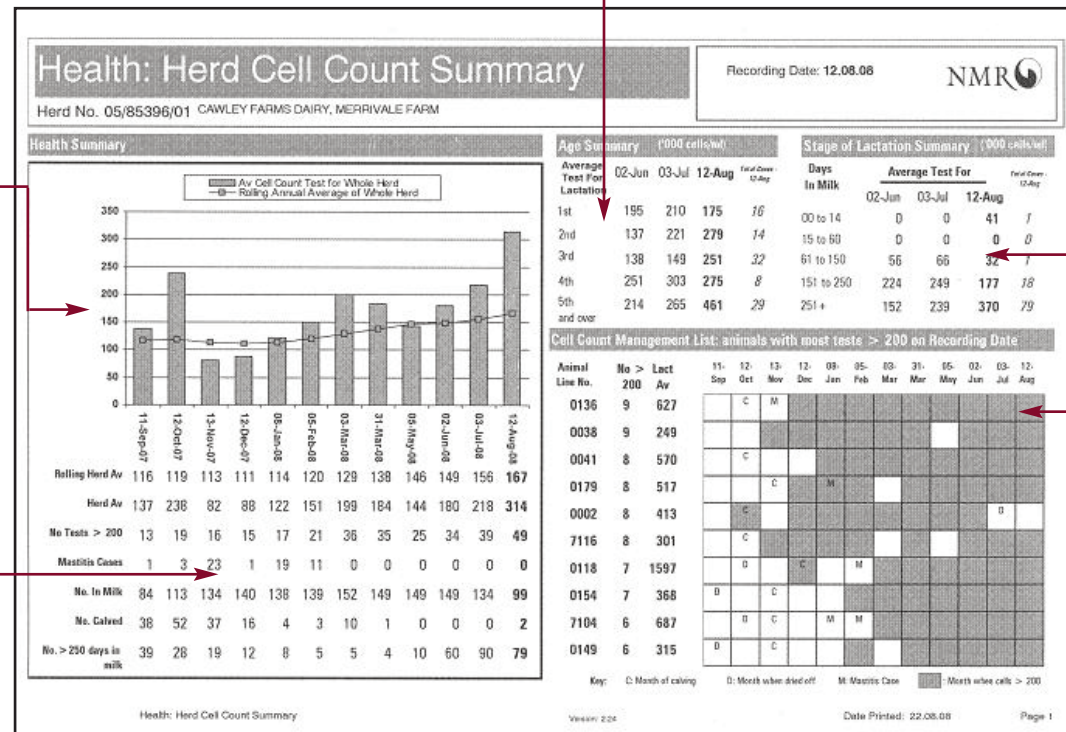
The ten animals are selected with the most tests over the 200,000 cells/ml threshold (or whatever threshold you have set for your herd). Reading across each line, the chart shows the animal's cell count average and history over her latest lactation.

HEALTH SUMMARY AND GRAPHS

This section indicates the trends over the past 12 months for the whole herd. The key figures are also shown as graphs to help picture the trend. Vertical bars show each month's herd average cell count. The solid line shows the 12-month rolling average of all cell counts.

The data below this, in the table, should help explain peaks, troughs and changes in the overall pattern.

For example: The number of cows in milk each month, the number just calved, and the number in late lactation will influence the overall count – particularly in seasonal calving herds.



The months shown throughout this report refer to the NMR recording which took place in that month (eg "Mar 95" refers to events up to the recording on 23 March 1995).