

DRY COW MANAGEMENT CHECKLIST

Compare your situation with the standards that follow. When making this evaluation I like to use these scores: 1 = never, 2 = seldom, 3 = often, 4 = usually, and 5 = almost always.

- _____ 1. For free cubicle dry cow housing, I have no more than one cow per stall. Every 10 percent increase over 80 percent stocking results in 725g/day decrease in milk production during at least the first 80 days.
- _____ 2. For bedded pack dry cow housing, I have at least 90 square metres of resting space per cow.
- _____ 3. I have a contingency plan for dry cow housing overcrowding.
- _____ 4. For a feed bunk with yokes, they are spaced for at least 76cm per cow.
- _____ 5. For a feed bunk with yokes, I have at least one yoke for each cow.
- _____ 6. For a feed bunk without yokes, I have at least 76cm of bunk space per cow in the pen (90cm is actually better).
- _____ 7. I have a contingency plan to prevent dry cow bunk space overcrowding.
- _____ 8. When doing pregnancy checking I provide the veterinarian with alternative breeding dates when applicable.
- _____ 9. When doing pregnancy checking I record and use information on “twin” pregnancies.
- _____ 10. I have rectal exams done on cows before drying off to avoid drying off open and short-bred cows.
- _____ 11. I periodically check particle length in my dry cow TMR.
- _____ 12. My hoof-trimming program sends cows into their dry period with well-trimmed hooves.
- _____ 13. I observe for and treat cases of hoof rot and heel wart among dry cows.
- _____ 14. All cows receive an approved dry cow mastitis product by an accepted procedure at dry off.
- _____ 15. I have a written whole herd vaccination program that is implemented one hundred percent of the time with approved vaccines.