

A SYSTEM FOR RECORDING AND PROCESSING MILK PRODUCTION DATA FROM EXPERIMENTAL DAIRY HERDS, USING A MICRO-COMPUTER.

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For medium and long term experiments with lactating dairy cows the practice at the Dairy Research Institute, Ellinbank is to record the volume of milk daily for each cow once a week and to measure fat and protein content for each cow on a single (composite) sample of milk (Clarke and McGowan 1984).

To reduce the time involved in the manual calculation of milk production for each cow, we have developed a computer program to calculate and collate the milk production data for all of our experimental cows.

Input : When a cow calves, her identity and the experimental group to which she belongs is entered. Each week, her weekly (or daily) milk production is entered together with the fat and protein content from the weekly analysis of her milk. (If protein analysis is done every second week, the value from the preceding week is automatically recalled).

output : The three sets of captions below show the information provided in the output. In addition the group means are also calculated and printed.

WEEKLY OUTPUT (27/8/83)

COW#	CURRENT								CUMULATIVE						WKS OF LACT
	DLY YLD(KG)			WKLY YLD(KG)				FAT			PRO			%	
	MILK	FAT	PRO	MILK	FAT	PRO	%	%	MILK	FAT	PRO	%			
508	9.6	.67	.43	67	4.7	3	6.9	4.5	4527	233	164	5.1	3.6	20	

PERIOD YIELDS (kg)

COW#	0-5 WKS				6-10 WKS				11-15 WKS				16-20 WKS				20- WKS				WKS OF LACT
	MILK	FAT	PRO		MILK	FAT	PRO		MILK	FAT	PRO		MILK	FAT	PRO		MILK	FAT	PRO		
910	441	24	16		510	26	18		465	25	17		356	19	13		522	28	17		31

CUMULATIVE YIELDS (kg)

COW#	0-5 WKS				0-10 WKS				0-15 WKS				0-20 WKS				TOTAL TO DATE				WKS OF LACT
	MILK	FAT	PRO		MILK	FAT	PRO		MILK	FAT	PRO		MILK	FAT	PRO		MILK	FAT	PRO		
Y36	814	25	23		1677	52	46		2448	78	68		3024	100	84		3504	118	97		26

If at any time a cow is transferred from one treatment group to another, her records are removed from the first herd and transferred to the second. If required, her records can be simply deleted without transferral.

The program has now been used for three seasons and has proven to be time-saving, accurate and convenient. The program is available on request to the author.

CLARKE, T and MCGOWAN, A.A., (1984). Aust. J. Exp. Agric. Animal Husb. 24: In press.

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