

# Minnesota DHIA News

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Getting cows pregnant is a challenge. These folks are handling that very well indeed. Here are the top herds using perhaps the most objective stat - Pregnancy Risk - from Dairy Comp 305. Preg Risk is the percent of cows that come into heat, are detected, are bred, and become pregnant from that heat/breeding. So in our top herd, 34% of the cows that come into heat on the average day will become pregnant on that day. Well done! Data is current as of March 1.

## Top Herds by Pregnancy Risk

Herd	Cows	Preg Risk	Herd	Cows	Preg Risk
BORST FAMILY DAIRY LLC	271	34	KRAIG&RACHELLE KRIENKE	494	29
BRABEC FARMS	139	33	BARTHOLOME FARM LLC	490	29
*PAUL DUESTERHOEFT	22	32	VALLEY VIEW FARM 1	138	29
MASCHKA DAIRY	270	32	PATER DAIRY INC	1360	29
*ERIC RYAN	208	32	DAIRYRIDGE	1396	29
*DON AND SALLY WEISENBECK	463	32	BOMBAY DAIRY	795	28
*RANDY AND LUANN WAGNER	351	32	LONE OAK DAIRY	349	28
DU AYR DAIRY	159	31	ZAHBULLS HOLSTEINS LLC	380	28
GAR-LIN DAIRY FARMS INC.	1961	31	SCHUMACHER DAIRY FARMS	1169	28
HERITAGE HILLS DAIRY LLC	463	30	HYDE-PARK HOLSTEINS	602	28
MAZEPPA VALLEY DAIRY	165	30	*RON SPEER	106	28
*JAMES AND JEROME SHEEHAN	274	30	*MIKE-MANDI HOERNEMANN	253	28
SANDHILL DAIRY	362	30	WOLF CREEK DAIRY	461	28
LINN DAIRY FARM	138	30	GLEN & BECKY CHRISTEN	50	28
BROOKSIDE DAIRY	482	30	STELTER HOLSTEIN DAIRY	279	28
*DEB DOLENCE	52	30	*RAY & JEAN BEUTZ	124	28
JOHNSONS ROLLING ACRES	1322	30	VOGT DAIRY, LLC	330	28
NEW HEIGHTS DAIRY	3418	30	BLUFF VIEW FARMS	404	28
HEINTZ BADGER VALLEY FARM	195	29	TRAIL SIDE HOLSTEINS	628	28
KUBALL DAIRY FARM	233	29	STADICK FARM INC	164	28
*JASON & NANCY BACHMANN	85	29	RADERMACHER DAIRY LLC	236	28
MARK RUEGEMER	76	29	MUNDT DAIRY	201	28
KLEINS COW PALACE	676	29	LOREN&LIZ VETSCH	248	28

## Top 10 Tag Retention Tips

1. Always make a new hole.
2. Make a precise incision – NOT a puncture wound.
3. Attach the tag TOWARD the head.
4. Avoid penetrating cartilage and blood vessels.
5. Always use clean equipment to avoid disease transfer.
6. Make sure the button (on two piece tags) is on the BACK of the ear
7. Always use NEW tags
8. Avoid using heavy tags.
9. Support the ear of newborns when tagging
10. Remove twine from hay bales to minimize snagging.

## Repro on your Herd Summary

Your herd summary includes more details about your herd's reproductive performance that can help you identify the best opportunities for improvement. Progress in any reproductive measure, will usually lead to an increased pregnancy rate.

In the example herd at left, there are several areas that could be improved. You can see that the average cow is nearly 90 days post fresh before she is bred for the first time, even though the herd has a Voluntary Waiting Period of less than 60 days. Only 40% of the cows are pregnant by 150 days in milk and their heat detection rate is 35%.

On the other hand, once cows are bred the numbers are very impressive. 44% of cows are conceiving at first service, with an average of 2 services per conception.

In our example herd, we would expect to see a significant pregnancy rate improvement if they focused on heat detection and decreasing days to first service.

Reproduction Summary		
Breeding Herd	Cows	Heifers
Animals	42	26
Animals Sweved	81%	81%
Waiting Period (days of mo)	57	15
First Serviced	76%	
Time to First Services (days or mo)	87	
Services per Animal	2	1.6
Open Period (<150 days or 17 mo)	40%	12%
Min Calving Interval (months)	14.2	25.1
Heat Detection Index	35%	
Pregnant Animals	Cows	Heifers
Animals	25	19
Conceived at First Service	44%	79%
Services per Conception	2	1.3
Pregnancy Rate (%)	12%	
Open Period (days or mo)	127	15
Calving Interval (months)	13.5	24.6

## Milk Quality and Fertility

### Is mastitis the reason she's not pregnant?

Getting cows pregnant and managing somatic cell count (SCC) levels are two major challenges to the health of your cows and your profit. When a cow has mastitis, her immune system has to work harder producing extra white blood cells. This elevates the risk of pregnancy loss, increases days to first AI, causes more days open, and extends calving intervals. Research reported by Jeff Stevenson, Kansas State University was published in the last issue of *Hoard's Dairyman*. Also noted in the article, is the drastic decrease in pregnancy rate which ranged from a healthy cow at 41% to a cow with chronic clinical mastitis at 28%. Research published by the University of Wisconsin in April 2015, found that mastitis before and after a breeding event can greatly reduce conception. This period is crucial to the success of breeding. The severity of the case of mastitis is correlated to the probability that the cow will not retain her pregnancy. Down the road, cows with clinical mastitis within the first 45 days of pregnancy were 2.7 times more likely to suffer a pregnancy loss. Both gram negative and gram positive bacteria have been found to cause reproductive issues. Next time when you ask yourself why she's not pregnant, take a look at your SCC report.



IS SHE PREGNANT?

CONFIRM IT WITH MILK

Milk Pregnancy Testing through Minnesota DHIA is accurate, cost effective, simple, and safe.

Great for rechecking later in gestation!