

Calf Care

Key

The table includes information for some of the calves at this dairy operation. This farm currently has an average for first calving around 32 months. The farm's management team wants to drop that age to 24 months of age. Remember, the heifers ideally need to be at least 65% mature body weight to breed.

You are going to calculate to see if their heifer calves are gaining ideal weight for their new program.

Steps:

1. Calculate the preweaning weight gain

WW-BW

2. Calculate the average daily gain

PWG/AW

3. Evaluate the average daily gain.

- a. Is the average daily gain acceptable?

No, not for this program.

- b. It is on track for the new breeding program?

No

- c. Why or Why not

They will have to increase feed and look at number of disease event that happen in their calf unit.

4. How can this farm improve its calving age?

Look at decreasing their disease numbers. Go back to Maturity pens evaluations. Examples: Clean pens, Timing for calves first feeding, navel dip, etc.

Calf ID	Birth Weight (lbs)	Weaning Weight (lbs)	Age at Weaning (days)	Number of Disease Events	Preweaning Weight Gain	Average Daily Gain
20	97	166	74	4	69	.93
21	95	164	69	1	69	1
22	98	170	60	0	72	1.2
23	105	180	60	0	75	1.25