

## FIELD TRIP

October 24, 2009

Schedule of dairy visitations Moses Lake, WA, area:

**DEPART AT 6:15 am SHARP from the small parking lot of the Ag Sci Bldg.**

**If you are not there on time, then drive to WSU and we will depart at 6:30 AM with WSU students from front of Clark Hall, between Hulbert Hall and Ensminger Pavilion**

Farm 1 Bar E Dairy- Alan Bartleheimer

Farm 2 Avila- Eddie Avila

Farm 3 Mickelsons- Denny and Aaron

### **Purpose of field trip:**

1. Afford students an opportunity to visit dairy enterprises of varying degrees of management so that:
  - a. students can compare the success of “recommended” and “non-recommended” practices used on commercial enterprises.
  - b. Students can better appreciate the difficulties and intricacies of running and managing a dairy production.
  - c. Students can gain insight concerning the goals and objectives of dairy managers.
2. Provide students with an opportunity to get a little slurry on their boots.

### **Field Trip Oral Presentation: time and location TBA.**

1. Summarize the management of the dairy following the life cycles of the calf and the cow. That is, discuss under each age group the dairy’s management in the areas of nutrition, health, reproduction, milking management, and breeding, as they apply.
2. Contrast the management practices at your dairy with the management practices recommended in class and those that you would use on a model dairy. (1) Discuss why those management practices which deviate from the recommended practices are successful on that particular dairy. (2) Discuss why those management practices which are recommended practices are not successful in that particular dairy.
3. Evaluate the herd in terms of its current standing as compared to the dairyman’s goals and the management goals recommended in class.

Each group will be assigned one dairy to analyze in their oral power-point report. Note that under instruction #1 you are to *summarize*, while instructions #2 and #3 ask you to *analyze*. Although each student will only be involved in the presentation of a report on one dairy, all students will still be held responsible for possessing full knowledge of each dairy’s management practices, objectives and goals. The following pages can be used as a guideline to obtain information and direct questions during your visit to the dairy. It is not necessary to have the following sheets completed for any or all herds visited.

**AS 472**  
**INFORMATION GUIDELINES FOR FIELD TRIP**

DAIRY HERD IMPROVEMENT FIGURES (If Available)

<u>Lact. No.</u>	<u>Cows in Herd</u>	<u>Current Mo. Ave.</u>	
1	_____	_____	Lbs milk/day for all cows
2	_____	_____	Lbs milk/day for milking cows
3+	_____	_____	% Fat test
T	_____	_____	% Days in milk

365 Day Rolling Herd Ave.

\_\_\_\_\_ Lbs milk  
\_\_\_\_\_ % fat  
\_\_\_\_\_ % days in milk

Month with the lowest milk yield/cow \_\_\_\_\_

Month with the highest milk yield/cow \_\_\_\_\_

Month with the highest % fat \_\_\_\_\_

Month with the lowest % fat \_\_\_\_\_

How do you explain this monthly variation?



Amounts Feed Per Cow Per Day

lbs. silage/day @ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

lbs. hay/day @ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

lbs grain/day @ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

lbs mineral/day @ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

lbs milk/day @ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \*= \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Return over Feed Cost/Day \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Milk price in \$/lb

## CALF WORKSHEET

<b>Points</b>	<b>Observations and Comments</b>
1. What percent of calves are still living at 3 months of age?	
2. What is the average weight of calves at 3 months of age?	
3. What is the average weight at weaning?	
4. How many pounds of milk or milk replacer are fed per calf? Dry feeds?	
5. Describe housing as to space, bedding and ventilation. Improvements?	
6. Calf vaccinations.	

## HEIFER WORKSHEET

(3-6 mo old)

Points	Observations and Comments
1. Feeding Program	
Grain	
Hay	
Silage	
Mineral	
2. Vaccination Program	
3. Facilities for shelter and shade	
4. Average daily gains	
5. How are heifers grouped?	

## HEIFER WORKSHEET

(6-12 mo old)

<b>Points</b>	<b>Observations and Comments</b>
1. Feeding Program	
Grain	
Hay	
Silage	
Mineral	
2. What bunk space is provided for roughage and supplements?	
3. How are heifers grouped?	
4. What are the water facilities?	
5. What are the facilities for shelter and shade?	
6. Average daily gains.	
7. Vaccination program.	

## HEIFER WORKSHEET

(> 12 mo old)

<b>Points</b>	<b>Observations and Comments</b>
1. What is the average 305-day milk production of first-calf heifers?	
2. What is the average age of heifers at calving?	
3. What is the average weight of heifers at calving?	
4. Feeding program	
5. How are heifers checked for heat?	
6. AI or Natural Service?	
7. What bunk space is provided for roughage and supplemental rations?	
8. How are heifers grouped?	
9. What are the water facilities?	
10. What are the facilities for shelter and shade?	
11. Average daily gains of heifers?	
12. Are heifers wormed?	

## DRY COW WORKSHEET

Points	Observations and Comments
1. Average days dry for cows	
2. What percent of fresh cows had retained placenta last year?	
3. What percent of the cows had milk fever last year?	
4. What percent had ketosis last year?	
5. Feeding Program	
Roughage	
Concentrate	
Mineral/salt	
6. Condition of dry cows at and after calving?	
7. Where are dry cows kept in relation to milking cows?	
8. Facilities for water?	
9. Facilities for shade?	
10. Feed bunk space?	
11. Calving conditions for the dry cows?	
12. Program for "close-up" cows?	

## MILKING COW WORKSHEET

Points	Observations and Comments
1. Average number of cows in herd and breed?	
2. Average fat test during last July, August and September?	
3. Feed Program	
Grouping	
Concentrate	
Hay	
Silage	
Mineral/salt	
4. Average lbs of grain fed per cow per lactation?	
5. Percent cows culled or died during last year?	
6. What records are kept of why cows were culled or died?	
7. BREEDING. Average calving interval?	
8. Percent cows settle on first service?	
9. Average services per conception?	
10. How often is heat checked each day?	
11. Percent cows bred to plus predicted AI sires?	
12. When does insemination take place during the heat period?	
13. Are records kept in the barn showing when cows were in heat and when to watch again?	

**MILKING COW WORKSHEET, *continued***

14. What checks are made and by whom to see if the reproductive tract is normal before breeding?	
15. When are cows bred after calving?	
16. Does a veterinarian make routine pregnancy checks?	
17. Where reproductive problems occur, what appears to be the cause?	
18. What Health Records are kept?	
19. What are the problems with mastitis?	
20. What kind of mastitis prevention and treatment program is followed? Products used? Current problems?	
21. Worming program?	
22. Vaccination program for reproductive diseases?	
23. Other conditions affecting herd health?	
24. Hoof trimming	
25. Cleanliness	

# Analysis of a Dairy

## I. Record keeping

### A. Cow and calf identification method

1. Readable
2. Permanent

### B. Type of production or record system

1. Computer
  - a. Centralized system
  - b. Type of software
2. Cow cards
3. Daily log
  - a. Frequency with which records updated

### C. Inventory

1. 1<sup>st</sup> lactation cow numbers \_\_\_\_\_
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> lactation cow numbers \_\_\_\_\_
3. 3+ lactation cow numbers \_\_\_\_\_
4. Heifers < 1 year \_\_\_\_\_
5. Heifers 1-2 years \_\_\_\_\_
6. Dry cows \_\_\_\_\_

### D. Culling policy

1. Forced culling \_\_\_\_\_ \$
2. Mortality \_\_\_\_\_ \$
3. Voluntary \_\_\_\_\_ \$
  - a. Production \_\_\_\_\_ \$
  - b. Reproduction (< 10%) \_\_\_\_\_ \$
  - c. Dairy character \_\_\_\_\_ \$
  - d. Mastitis (< 2%) \_\_\_\_\_ \$
  - e. Health \_\_\_\_\_ \$

Goal: 35% culling, 10% voluntary

II. Milking procedure

A. Milking order

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
B. Forestripping	_____	_____
C. Wash teats only	_____	_____
D. Predip or prespray	_____	_____
1. Effective	_____	_____
E. Dry teats with single service cloth towel	_____	_____
F. Attach milking units same order as wash/dry	_____	_____
G. Avoid overmilking	_____	_____
H. Flooding at claw	_____	_____
I. Post milk teat dipping/spraying	_____	_____
1. Effective	_____	_____
J. Good appearance of teat ends postmilking	_____	_____
K. Backflushing	_____	_____
L. Good condition of inflations	_____	_____
1. Replaced every 1,000 cow milkings	_____	_____

- |  |       |       |
|--|-------|-------|
| M. Milking unit drop-offs  | _____ | _____ |
| N. Professional evaluation of milking system<br>(every 3 months) | _____ | _____ |
| O. Clean appearance of cows                                      |       |       |
| 1. Legs  | _____ | _____ |
| 2. Udders  | _____ | _____ |
| 3. Teats   | _____ | _____ |
| P. Stray voltage signs in cows                                   | _____ | _____ |
| Q. Milk filter – free from clots and flakes                      | _____ | _____ |
| R. Fresh feed available as cows exit parlor                      | _____ | _____ |