

Assessing the Economic Value of a Cow, the Value of a New Pregnancy, and the Cost of a Pregnancy Loss

- Knowing the cow value is crucial for optimal dairy farm decision-making
- The value of a cow decreases when the cow:
 - Remains non-pregnant through lactation
 - Suffers an abortion
 - Gets older in successive lactations
 - Gets sick or injured
 - Is expected to produce less than the other cows in the herd
- The value of a cow increases when the cow:
 - Becomes pregnant
 - Is expected to produce more than the other cows in the herd
 - Remains healthy
- The most important factors in determining the economic value of a cow is the expectancy of the future performance of the evaluated cow and the potential replacement.
- Herd factors such as reproductive performance or turnover ratio have only limited impact on the relative economic value of a dairy cow
- Economic factors such as milk price or feed costs have also only limited impact on the relative economic value of a dairy cow.
- The study developed into an online user-friendly decision support tool available at the UW Dairy Management Website

RESOURCES

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