

Retrospective evaluation of health event data recording of on dairies using Dairy Comp 305

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According to the NAHMS Dairy 2007 study the most common reasons cows are removed from the herd were reproductive problems (26.3%), mastitis (23%) and lameness (16%). The majority of dairy cows in the United States are on large herds and of the computer data record systems available, Dairy Comp 305 is the most commonly used on farm system (NAHMS Dairy 2007). The purpose of this study was to retrospectively evaluate the recording of health event data from the past twelve months on fifty large dairies using DC 305 data. DC 305 offers 64 user defined events, on average 32 were used; indicating that opportunities to record events are under utilized. The majority of the dairies recorded clinical mastitis; of those quarter treated was always recorded on 34% of dairies and never recorded on 20% of dairies. Treatment was rarely always recorded and was never recorded on 32% of the dairies. 66% of the dairies recorded lameness. Only 9.1% recorded the affected limb as a remark for the event, while 61% never recorded the affected limb. 6.1% always recorded treatment used and 42% never recorded treatment used in the remark. Metritis events were recorded on 58% of dairies. All of the events considered to be metritis occurred within the first 30 days of milk. Of the 29 recording metritis 28% always recorded treatment administered, while 48% never recorded the treatment used. When evaluating SOLD and DIED events it is clear that there is more consistency in data recorded when the computer system prompts the input of information. The DIED event does not have a system prompt to enter a reason for death and those that recorded a reason were inconsistent. Without tools to measure the health problems on a dairy, it is not possible to accurately evaluate the disease incidence and treatment efficacy. Based on these results there is no way to obtain accurate consistent data that would allow the generation of critical information needed to make rational management decisions. The lack of accuracy and consistency observed in the data recorded in this study likely reflects the situation seen on dairies across the country. System standardization with consistent and accurate record keeping is needed to improve the management of health problems and thus improve animal health and welfare.