



# How Does Your Cow Welfare Compare?

NAHMS Dairy 2014 Study — Survey Results — Farm XXXXXX

January 2015

This report shows how your dairy ranks overall by herd size with all dairies in the study for various parameters associated with dairy cow welfare. For the purposes of this study, your dairy was categorized as **Medium** (100 to 499 cows).



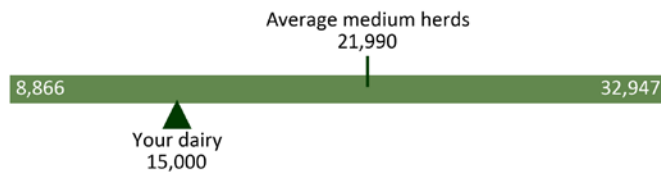
*The minimum and maximum values for each category are displayed in the green bars below.*

No single measurement is an accurate indicator of cow welfare on a dairy; however, if the results presented here are a cause of concern, you should consult your herd veterinarian.

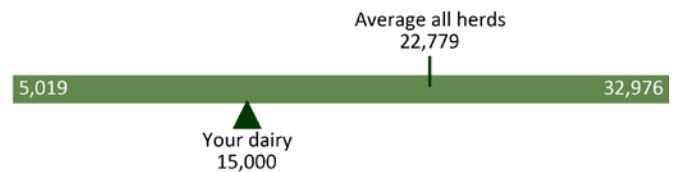
## ROLLING HERD AVERAGE MILK PRODUCTION

Rolling herd average (RHA) milk production (lb) is a measurement of the overall performance and efficiency of all cows in a herd. RHA varies for many reasons, including operation type (e.g., conventional or organic) and breed of dairy cow. The following compares your RHA milk production with dairies of similar size to yours and with all dairies in the study.

### Medium Dairies



### All Dairies



## PERCENTAGE OF LAME COWS DURING 2013

Lameness is a major concern for the dairy industry. Not only does lameness have a negative impact on production and dairy income, but it also influences dairy cow welfare.

### Medium Dairies

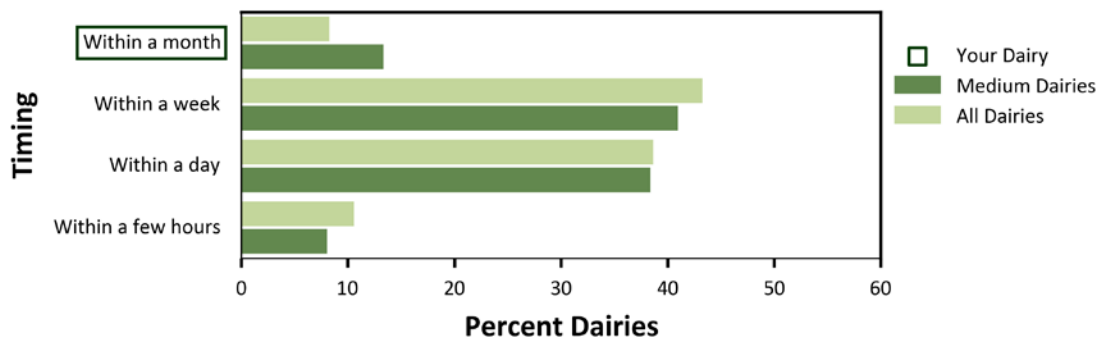


### All Dairies



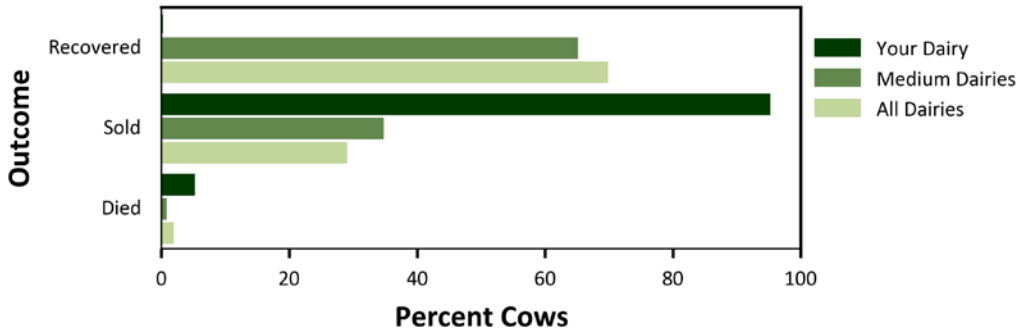
## AVERAGE TIME BEFORE LAME COWS RECEIVED TREATMENT

Early identification and control are crucial to the successful management of lameness. The earlier a cow is identified as lame and the earlier she is treated, the more likely it is that she will recover. The graph below indicates the percentage of dairies by the amount of time between when a cow was identified as lame and when she received treatment. The box indicates which category you reported.



## PERCENTAGE OF LAME COWS THAT RECOVERED, WERE SOLD, OR DIED

On dairies with a successful lameness-management program the majority of cows recover from lameness. The graph below illustrates what percentage of lame cows recovered, were sold, or died.



## PERCENTAGE OF COWS THAT BECAME “DOWNERS” DURING 2013

Nonambulatory cows, commonly referred to as downers, are a major welfare concern because of the challenges presented in managing these animals.

### Medium Dairies



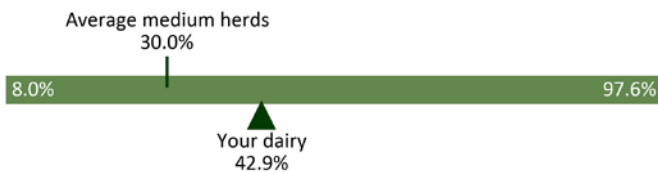
### All Dairies



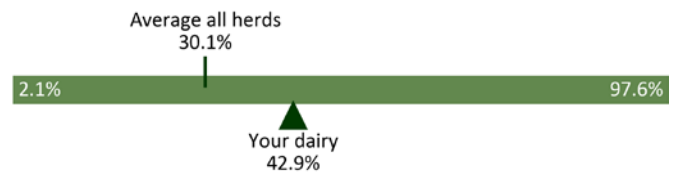
## PERCENTAGE OF COWS THAT WERE REMOVED (CULLED) DURING 2013

Culling cows can have a substantial economic impact on a dairy operation, and the number of cows culled can vary greatly among dairies depending on operation size, region, and expansion efforts. While animal-replacement costs usually increase as culling increases, reduced culling may result in a decrease in milk production and genetic improvement.

### Medium Dairies



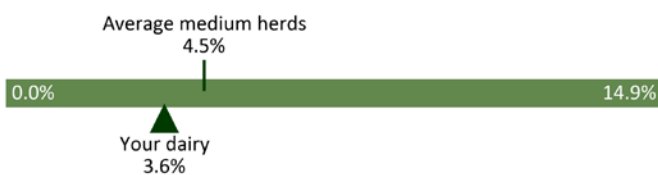
### All Dairies



## PERCENTAGE OF COWS THAT DIED DURING 2013

Mortality is a major problem for the dairy industry in terms of dairy cow welfare and dairy income and varies depending on management and production factors.

### Medium Dairies



### All Dairies



Below are the observations gathered on your dairy during the NAHMS Dairy 2014 study. The observations include:

- Locomotion scoring – scale of 1 (sound) to 3 (severely lame)
- Body condition scoring (BCS) – percentage of cows with BCS < 2.25 (thin)
- Hock scoring – scale of 1 (no lesions) to 3 (severe lesions)

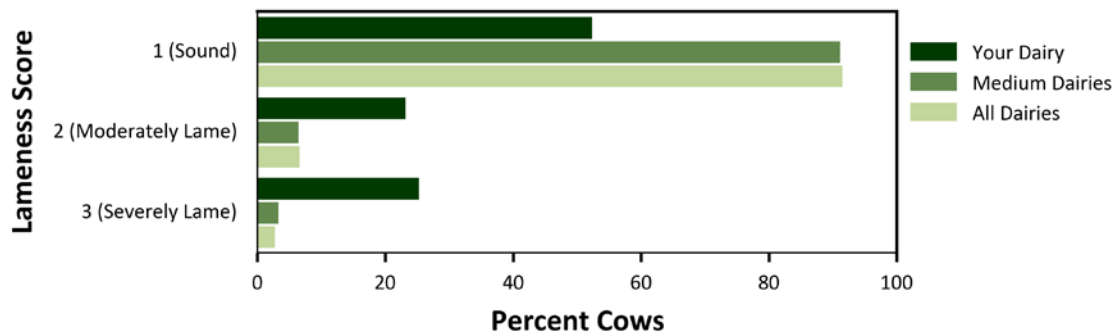
## LOCOMOTION SCORING

The prevalence of lameness on a dairy can be estimated by locomotion scoring all cows in a selected pen or, ideally, all cows in a herd. The following table shows the number of cows scored and the percentage of these cows by locomotion score.

Locomotion Scoring Results				
	# cows scored	1 (sound)	2 (moderately lame)	3 (severely lame)
Your Dairy	240	52.1%	22.9%	25.0%
Medium Dairies		90.9%	6.2%	3.0%
All Dairies		91.2%	6.3%	2.5%
Goal		≥85.0%	≤10.0%	≤5.0%

## PERCENTAGE OF COWS BY LOCOMOTION SCORING

The following graph shows the percentages of cows by locomotion scores on your dairy, dairies of similar size, and all dairies in the study.

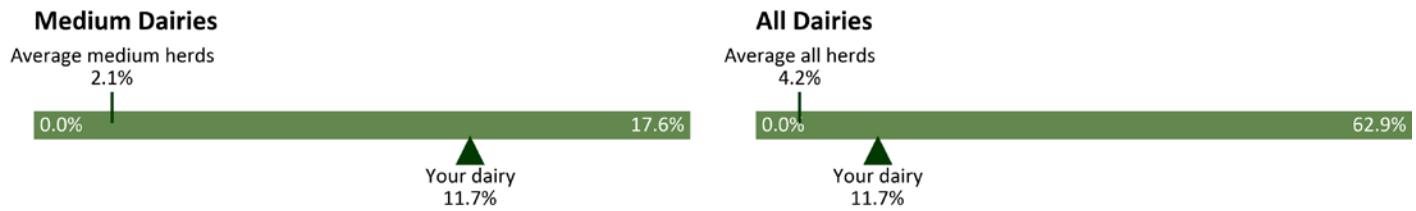


The National Dairy FARM Program, which uses a 3-point locomotion scoring system similar to the one used in this study, recommends that no more than 5 percent of a milking herd have a locomotion score of 3 ([www.nationaldairyfarm.com](http://www.nationaldairyfarm.com)).

Your dairy **did not achieve** the goal set forth by the FARM program for locomotion scoring.

## BODY CONDITION SCORING

Cows with a body condition score (BCS) less than 2.25 are at an increased risk for metabolic diseases and have decreased conception rates compared with cows with an ideal BCS (2.5 to 3.5). The prevalence of thin cows was estimated by recording all cows with a BCS less than 2.25. The following graph illustrates the percentage of thin cows on your dairy in comparison with other similar-sized dairies and with all dairies in the study.



Cows with a low body condition score are at an increased risk for metabolic diseases and have decreased conception rates compared to cows with an ideal BCS (between 2.5 and 3.5).

## HOCK SCORING

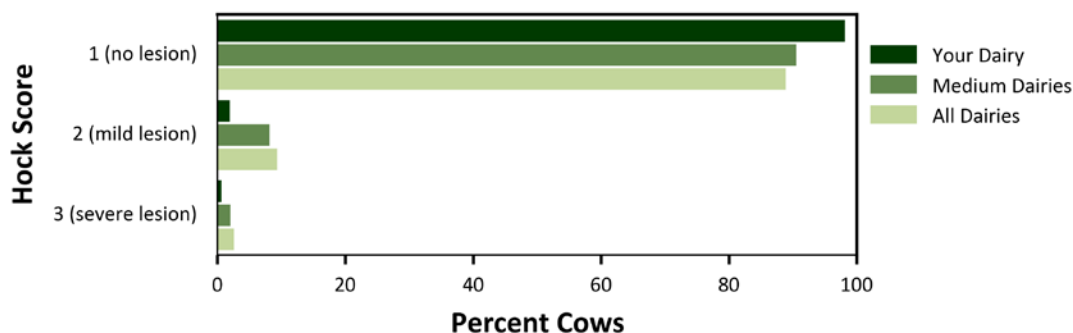
The presence of hock lesions may indicate that the bedding surfaces on an operation are hard and abrasive, without enough bedding to protect a cow's hocks while lying. The following table shows the number of cows scored and the percentage of these cows by hock score.

Hock Scoring Results

	# cows scored	1 (no lesion)	2 (mild lesion)	3 (severe lesion)
Your Dairy	240	97.9%	1.7%	0.4%
Medium Dairies		90.3%	7.9%	1.8%
All Dairies		88.6%	9.1%	2.3%
Goal		≥90.0%	≤5.0%	≤5.0%

## PERCENTAGE OF COWS BY HOCK SCORE:

The following graph shows the percentages of cows with HS of 1, HS of 2, and HS of 3 compared with the other dairies in the study.



The National Dairy FARM Program, which uses the same hock scoring system as the one used in this study, recommends that no more than 5 percent of the milking herd should have a score of 3.

Your dairy **achieved** the goal set forth by the FARM program for hock scoring.

If you have questions, concerns, or comments regarding this customized report please contact Dr. Jason Lombard at [jason.e.lombard@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:jason.e.lombard@aphis.usda.gov) or (970) 494—7245.