

# WVS MILK QUALITY

*Waupun Veterinary Services, LLC - Your Progressive Dairy Partner since 1958*

## How to Increase Parlor Performance

### *Maximize Milk Per Stall Per Hour to Have Profitability in Herd*

*Most of the information in this article is taken from lectures given by Dr. Andy Johnson and Dr. David Reid at the National Mastitis Council Meeting in Charlotte North Carolina in January.*

The key to profitability is to maximize the amount of milk per stall per hour in the parlor. To get high milk per stall per hour there needs to be high producing cows with high turns per hour through the parlor.

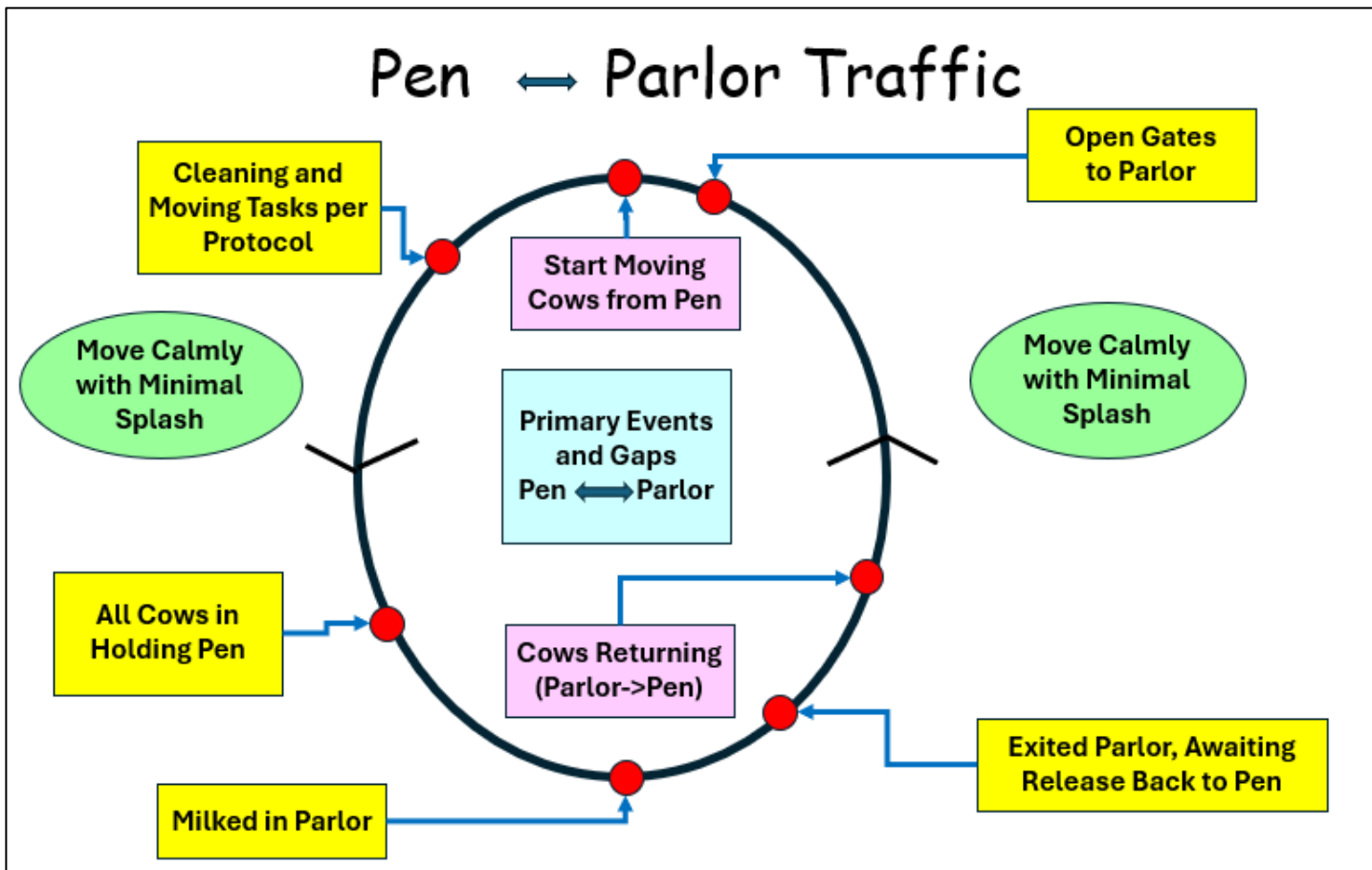
A realistic goal is to achieve 150 pounds of milk per hour with many dairies now in the 165-200 pounds per hour or higher. Dairies should be able to get 5 turns per hour with some dairies over 6.5 turns per hour. To increase parlor performance, you need to let cows be cows. Cows need to be milked in an efficient manner to

minimize the time the cows are away from feed, beds, water and social interaction with other cows. Management interventions that take away from time for cows to be cows should be reduced. Improving parlor performance is always good for the cows.

The following two diagrams are taken from Dr. Reid's lecture.

The key to increasing parlor throughput is to decrease the gap times. The cows need to enter the parlor in a calm manner. When the first cow enters the first parlor stall, a milker should begin to prep her. A good milking protocol should be in place to get proper stimulation and flow rates. Duration goals are that the first 25 pounds should be 3.6 minutes, and each additional 10 pounds should be an additional .5 minutes. Detach setting should be set to get the

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machines off when the cows are milked out. Most default settings are at 2.0 pounds per minute.

With proper monitoring, some dairies have their take off settings at 3.0 pounds per minute. Another setting that can be adjusted is the maximum on unit time. Most default settings are at 12

minutes. Many high throughput parlors have their maximum on time at 8 minutes. When the last unit detaches the cow needs to post dipped and the cows on the side of the parlor need to be released. Another bottleneck area we see is between pens. Cows need to be brought up to the holding area so there is minimal time between groups. Pen sizes should be in multiples of the number of units on a side in the parlor. It is very inefficient to be milking 1-2 cows on a side for the last turn in a pen. Most dairies have a few less in a pen in case a stall is empty, but the goal is to have the last turn as full as possible.

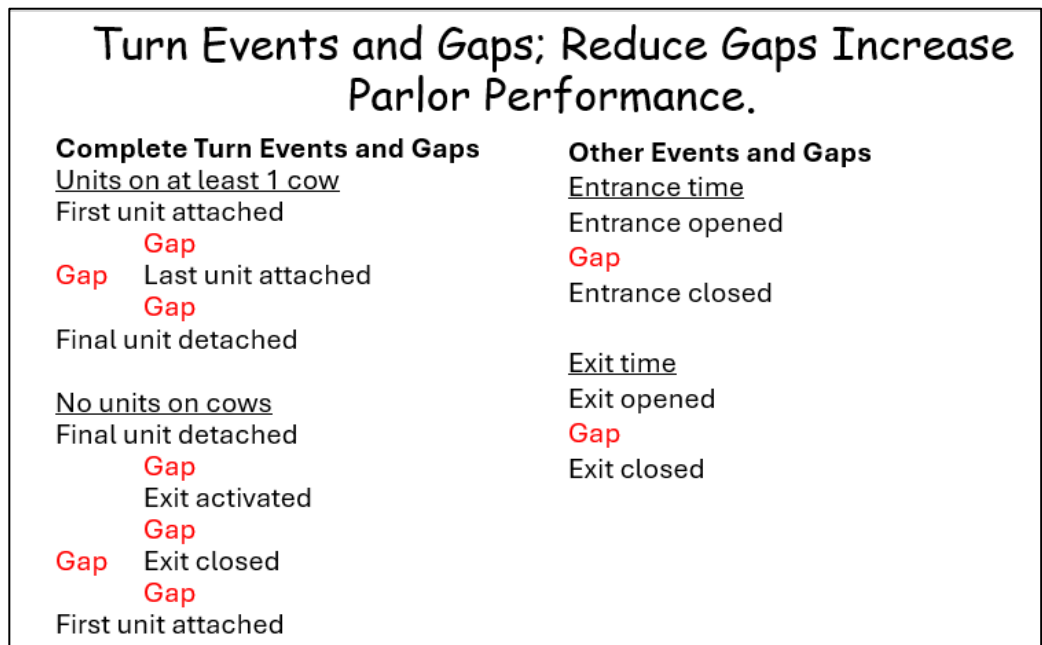
High throughput dairies understands that proper training of the employees who bring up the cows to the parlor is as important as the training of the milkers. Cows that are brought up in an efficient calm manner will milk out faster.

Dr. Johnson presented the following slide that showed the economic effect of increasing the turns per hour on a dairy.

Increasing the efficiency of the parlor is good for the cows and good for economics of your dairy. Be careful about changing the setting on your equipment. Higher parlor performance requires increased monitoring of your equipment.

PARLOR PER STALL	4 TURNS/HOUR	5.5 TURNS/HOUR
33 pounds/cow	132 lbs.	181.5 lbs.
15 kg/cow	60 kg	82.5 kg
\$0.18/lb.	\$23.76	\$32.67
\$0.396/kg	\$23.76	\$32.67
7 Hour/Shift	\$166.32	\$228.69
Per Day (3X)	\$498.96	\$686.07
Per Month	\$14,968.80	\$20,582.10
Per Year	\$179,625.60	\$246,985.20
<b>DIFFERENCE</b>	<b>\$67,359.60 more income per stall</b>	
<b>Double-12 parlor</b>	<b>\$1,616,630.40 per year</b>	
<b>Double24 parlor</b>	<b>\$3,233,260.80 per year</b>	

*Dr. Johnson's chart pictured above shows the economic effect of increasing the turns per hour on a dairy.*



*The chart diagram above, created by Dr. Reid, shows the turn events and gaps. Reduce gaps increase parlor performance.*

## Newsletter Translated to Spanish

Dr. Emma Schaffel, of Waupun Veterinary Services, is going to translate the milk quality newsletter to Spanish. Many of the employees that work on dairies only speak Spanish and we want to get the information in the newsletters to your workers. We are hoping that are dairyman will put out copies of the articles in the break rooms so the employees can read them. Well informed workers are better workers. WVS has two Spanish speaking veterinarians that are available for Spanish meetings.