

KEY BENCHMARKS TO PROFITABILITY

The Dairy Task Force has developed these specific benchmarks to help producers increase on-farm profitability. We encourage your farm to strive to meet these benchmarks and drive the industry forward. **TOP 10!**

Production

- **Daily Milk = 80 lbs.**
 - Cows need to be fed a well-balanced ration and receive proper care
 - Keep cows healthy and comfortable by limiting stress factors (Minimize heat stress and provide proper foot care and housing)

Udder Health

- **Somatic Cell Count = 200,000**
 - Keep stalls, bedding and equipment clean and well-maintained
 - Use proper udder preparation (teat dip, fore stripping, clean towels)
 - Monitor mastitis problems and have treatment program in place

Reproduction

- **Days in Milk = 180 days**
 - Breed your cows back as soon as possible after 45 days fresh
 - Keep track of how long cows are open
- **Pregnancy rate = 20%**
 - Have an effective heat detection program for your herd
 - Ask your veterinarian to perform regular herd checks

Culling/Replacements

- **Cull Rate = Within range of 25 – 35%**
 - Cull rates higher than 35% make maintaining herd size difficult.
 - Dispose of problem cows, (mastitis, foot problems, reproduction issues, etc.) They end up costing money instead of making money
- **Age of First Calving = 24 months**
 - Have proper heifer raising techniques so heifers are properly conditioned when they reach breeding age

