

All you need to know about the *Herd Performance Index (HPI)*

The HPI uses a scoring system that divides a total of 1,000 points across 6 management areas. The points are allocated as follows:

- Milk Value **500 points**
- Udder health **150 points**
- Age at first calving **100 points**
- Herd efficiency **100 points**
- Longevity **100 points**
- Calving interval **50 points**

Points are determined for each herd for each management criteria based on the herd's performance in that area compared to other herds in Canada.

Herds are ranked from top to bottom for each management criteria with the top herds getting top points. The 99th percentile will receive 100% of the available points; the 98th percentile will receive 99% of the available points down to the 1st percentile, which will receive 2% of the available points.

Milk Value

Average dollar value of milk components for actual production of all of the cows in the herd using current milk and component values. The component values used are an aggregate of the values used for all provinces in Canada at the end of the year in question. By doing so the results of the index can be compared across provinces. Where a herd has both Holstein and colored breeds, a weighted score is determined. Milk Value per cow is a measure of gross revenue from the dairy herd.

Udder Health (Somatic Cell Count – Linear Score)

Average Linear Score (LS) for Somatic Cell Count (SCC) for your herd over the target year. The 12 month average LS for the herd is used. Given that a large number of herds will have the same value, the same score is assigned even though percentile ranking would suggest otherwise. SCC-LS measures the potential prevalence of clinical and sub-clinical mastitis. Each whole number rise in LS corresponds to a doubling of actual SCC. Mastitis leads to decreased milk production and decreased revenue.

Age at 1st Calving

Average age (expressed in months) of all animals with valid birth and calving dates that started their first lactation in the herd during the previous 12 months. Age at 1st Calving is a measure of heifer management, growth and reproduction in the herd. Calving heifers earlier (younger) decreases heifer-raising expenses.

Calving Interval

Average interval between calvings for animals in their second or greater lactation that calved in the herd during the target year. Calving Interval is a measure of reproductive management, heat detection and herd fertility. A shorter calving interval allows the herd to achieve higher peak production, increasing production and revenue. The top 20% of herds will be attributed the maximum points.

Longevity (% of Herd in 3+ lactation)

Annual average percentage of cows in the herd on test day that are in their third or greater lactation. Longevity is a measure of good management in regards to cow comfort, herd health, and keeping cows "problem free." Increased longevity allows for decreased animal replacement costs and excess animals to sell as replacements, providing increased revenue.

Herd Efficiency (% of Herd in Milk)

Average annual percentage of cows in the herd on test day that are milking (not dry). Herd Efficiency is an optimal measure where no extreme (high or low) is desirable. Herd Efficiency is a measure of the balance between the maximum Days in Milk and an adequate Dry Period and Calving Interval. Optimal efficiency will provide cows with a properly balanced lactation and will increase daily milk output from the herd. A value in mid-range (40th to 80th percentile) will score higher than extreme high or low values.

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