Method for Optimizing Health and Productivity of Milk Producing Animals

INVENTORS • Kenneth Nordlund, Thomas Bennett, Garrett Oetzel, Murray Clayton, Nigel Cook

WARF: P06229US

View U.S. Patent No. 7,886,691 in PDF format.

The Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF) is seeking commercial partners interested in developing a means of evaluating management programs for transition cows.

OVERVIEW

Most disease in dairy cows occurs during the transition period, which spans from about three weeks before calving to about one month after. Managing lactating dairy cows during this period is important because animals that perform well during transition exhibit better overall health and productivity during the remainder of the lactation. But the methods available for evaluating transition performance do not provide unbiased and objective measures of performance for individual animals, and the ability to monitor change and evaluate the success of innovations to improve fresh cow health on the farm level remains relatively crude.

THE INVENTION

UW-Madison researchers have developed a means of evaluating management programs for transition cows. Their method uses objective measures of each individual's previous lactation performance and current state to accurately predict the individual's expected milk production at her first milk test date. A transition monitor value, known as the "Transition Cow Index" or "TCI," is then calculated as the difference between actual and predicted milk production. The transition monitor can be utilized to evaluate and optimize the health and productivity of individuals and herds, and to make comparisons of transition programs within and among herds.

APPLICATIONS

- Evaluating and optimizing health and productivity of dairy cattle
- Comparing transition programs

KEY BENEFITS

THE WARF ADVANTAGE

Since its founding in 1925 as the patenting and licensing organization for the University of Wisconsin-Madison, WARF has been working with business and industry to transform university research into products that benefit society. WARF intellectual property managers and licensing staff members are leaders in the field of university-based technology transfer. They are familiar with the intricacies of patenting, have worked with researchers in relevant disciplines, understand industries and markets, and have negotiated innovative licensing strategies to meet the individual needs of business clients.

- Provides—for the first time— an objective measurement index that captures overall fresh cow health, rather than just milk production and quality
- Particularly valuable for dairy herd management
- Uses unbiased measures of performance
- Enables standardized comparisons of individuals and herds
- Allows producers to accurately evaluate the success of transition management changes

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Tech Fields
Agriculture - Animal health
Veterinary - Livestock

CONTACT INFORMATION

For current licensing status, please contact Emily Bauer at emily@warf.org or 608-960-9842.