Reproductive Management of Dairy Heifers

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Heifer Development

Age at 1\textsuperscript{st} Calving = 24 mo

- **Birth**
- **Calf**
- **Heifer**
- **Nonlactating**
- **Primiparous**
- **1\textsuperscript{st} Lactation**
- **Multiparous**
- **2\textsuperscript{nd} Lactation**
- **1\textsuperscript{st} Calving**
- **2\textsuperscript{nd} Calving**

Age at 1\textsuperscript{st} calving: 24 mo

- **Puberty** (9 mo)
- **Conception** (14 mo)

Optimal age at calving = 23-24 mo

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Heifer Development
Age at first calving = 32 mo

Each day calving is delayed beyond 24 months of age costs $1.50 to $3.00 per heifer

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Deciding When to Breed Holstein Heifers

Breeding Recommendations

- Age = 13 months
- Weight = 875 lb (396 kg)
- Wither Height = 50 in (127 cm)

Calving Recommendations

- Age at first calving = 22 - 24 months
- Weight = 1250 lb (567 kg) post-calving
- Wither Height = 55 in (140 cm)

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Heifer Reproductive Efficiency

Poor Reproduction
SR = 50%
CR = 40%
Average Age:
At 1st breeding = 14.0
At conception = 16.4
At 1st calving = 25.7
Heifers not pregnant (%)
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

• Heifers also get benefited by synch programs
• But TIA may be unnecessary because of better fertility (heat)
• However, most dairies fail to get the basics of growth!!!!

Good Reproduction
SR = 80%
CR = 70%
Average Age:
At 1st breeding = 14.0
At conception = 14.7
At 1st calving = 24.0
Age at conception (mo)
0 14.0 14.4 14.8 15.2 15.6 16.0 16.4 16.8 17.2 17.6 18.0 18.4 18.8 19.2 19.6 20.0 20.4 20.8 21.2

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