Large Animal Medicine

 Dairy Herd Health or Production Medicine

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I. Introduction

 A. Goal of any program is to maximize the herd income by

 optimizing milk production within the unique constraints of each dairy operation

 B. Components of a production medicine program

 1. Record keeping

 2. Nutrition and feedbunk management

 3. Reproduction

 4. Milking management, udder health, and milk quality

 5. Dry cows

 6. Replacement rearing

 7. Disease treatment, prevention, and control

 (health program)

 8. Culling practices

 9. Producer education and personnel training

 10. Residue avoidance

 C. When a production medicine program is initiated, rapid

 results are important. Target areas of farm management

 where the potential for improvement is greatest.

II. Record keeping and data analysis

 A. Flow diagram for investigating poor milk production

 B. Flow diagram for use in evaluation of rectal examinations

III. Example of a health program from birth to calving