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