

Tip of the Month – January 2025

Replacement percentage.

On farms we encounter replacement percentages of 50% to less than 20%. This concerns heifers that are needed for annual replacement in the herd.

During presentations I often show the list below. How, in my estimation, does the living environment influence this economically very interesting figure.

Suppose you have 100 dairy cows,
how big do I estimate the influence on the replacement percentage to be? :

1. A good selection / straw pen after VMS:
2 – 5 cows
2. Comfortable cubicles with nice bedding:
5 – 10 cows
3. Claw care prior to drying off:
5 – 10 cows
4. Safe, dry, walking paths with good grip:
2 – 5 cows
5. Dry cows and heavily pregnant heifers
having plenty of room to move:
2 – 5 cows
6. Extra structure and condition maintenance for dry cows:
5 – 10 cows
7. 2-Minute-Check at each round of the barn:
5 – 10 cows
8.

The better the conditions are in order, the lower the rearing

costs you have, the easier the cows walk and produce and the more space you have to select in the bottom of the herd.

Fertility does not appear in such an overview, but resistance does ...!