

Technology, Goals and Management

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➤ **The Farm Balance Sheet**

- Productivity Goals.....this number represents production you want to get per robot. It makes sense to represent this goal in KG's of BF so that it can fit into financial projections and cow production targets. Realistically this number can be between 70 and 80 Kgs
- Production Goals.....average BF production per cow. There are many strategies to how individual farms approach this.
- Lifestyle Goals.....the most important marker to measure and set goals for. To establish specific ideas of the lifestyle we want to have and the lifestyle we want for our employees are critical to consider when setting production and productivity targets.

➤ **Technology Today, Tomorrow and Next Generation**

Milking cows with VMS definitely changed the routines of staff at Lakeside Dairy. Like all technology, robotic milking creates efficiency and leads to new opportunities and challenges. Standard tools like Mastitis Detection Indicators mean that we manage cows with high SCC and clinical mastitis in a different way than when every cow was dry toweled and physically inspected twice per day. Once we learned how to use the new information it made sense.

The time that was once spent milking cows is now directed to managing cows. This can be whole herd strategies or micro managing challenges with individual cows. Automatic milking means more opportunity to engage in new technology and different strategies for profitability and sustainability.

For presentation at
Management Success with Robotic Milking
Ramada Plaza, Abbotsford, BC
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Technology like Herd Navigator is here now for many and on our farm it is still technology for tomorrow. Analyzing the capability of this technology against the areas at our farm that would benefit and also trying to be realistic about the changes and new demands on the staff and managers is an ongoing process. Where I once thought that I had enough technology I now choose to leave the door open to this new tool.

➤ **Specific Areas to Consider**

- I don't think it possible to spend too much time planning and considering how animals will move in your barn. Fetching, herd health, and isolating individual cows for treatment, breeding, or observation all come to mind. I would love to see seminars on strategies and techniques for handling animals with a focus on building skills to manipulating animal behavior.
- **Contagious Mastitis** like staph aureus can be difficult to manage in any milking system. M3 testing from DHI is a great tool to profile your herd and assist in decisions around minimizing the impact of infection and eliminating it from the herd. The only method to eliminate cross contamination is to hand sample, and to maximize the value collect milk 2 or 3 times per cow at one week intervals. For further strategy on how to manage staph infections discussion with your herd vet is recommended.