

The FARM CONSULTANCY Group



Block Calving

Why?

- Reduces labour and more efficient use of labour.
- Simplifies milk production system (less animal groups).
- Concentrate on fewer tasks at any one time.
- Lower cost of production.
- Improves cow fertility (selecting fertile dams of future replacements).
- More efficient use of feed.
- There is a start and finish to all tasks e.g. calving/serving etc.
- Replacement heifers calving at 24 months.



When?

- Time of calving depends on what suits farmer, what suits farm, timescale to change.
- If you are limited by alternative milk buyers, this may be a consideration, but not as crucial as people think.



How?

- Changing is the difficult part, but achieving is very rewarding.
- Cow breeding needs to change to improve fertility and longevity.
- Select replacements from cows served in first two cycles of AI.
- Move to two blocks initially and ascertain how many empty cows are moving between groups. This indicates how many would be culled for fertility if just one block.



Financial Benefits This varies depending on where your dairy business is currently. **Contact Phil Cooper on 07798 673665** to compare where you are in terms of profitability and costs of production vs our local database of block calved herds. The difference can be £50k for a 1 million litre producer. Can you afford not to consider changing?

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