



Tip

Tuesday!

Use Dart to Understand Health Data

DART can aid in evaluating herd health. When analyzing a herd's performance, it is helpful to understand when and why cows leave the herd, particularly when health data is not recorded or is recorded inconsistently.

"In the best-case scenario, herds are recording reasons for leaving, but even if this isn't the case, a consultant can sleuth out clues about what a herd is struggling with by looking at how many cows are leaving by lactation and days in milk,"

Dr. Gail Carpenter,
Iowa State Dairy Extension Specialist

Dr. Carpenter emphasizes that, "It is important to differentiate, when possible, if cows are sold for dairy (voluntary culls) or sold for other reasons (involuntary culls)."

Creating a **User Report** to examine why cows leave the farm can be a valuable management tool. To create this report:

1. Click on **Reports**
2. Click on **New**
3. Enter a **Name** for your report. Here we use *Left Reasons*
4. Under **Animal Filter**, select Cows, Heifers, or Both
5. Under **Major Sort**, enter **035**
6. Select the **Order** you prefer, Ascending or Descending
7. Enter **DBIs** as follows:
 - 050 Index
 - 034 Reason left herd
 - 035 Days since left herd
 - 337 Days snc Frsh on left dte
 - 126 Most recent hlth event
8. Enter **Controls/Filters** as follows
 - 034 Reason left herd Lower=1 Upper=9
 - 035 Days since left herd Lower=0 Upper=365 to view left cows within the past year
9. Select the Subgrouping tab

The screenshots illustrate the process of creating a 'Left Reasons' report in the DRMS software. The first screenshot shows the 'Sets and Reports' menu with 'User Reports' highlighted. The second screenshot shows the 'Report 025 Left Reasons' dialog box with various filters and sorting options. The third screenshot shows the 'Controls / Filters' and 'Subgrouping' tabs. The fourth screenshot shows the 'Print Specs' dialog box with 'Crossstabs' selected. The fifth screenshot shows the final report output titled '025 - Left Reasons'.

10. Utilize DBI 008

Lactation no. for Major Subgrouping and enter as follows:

- Lower=1 Upper=1
- Lower=2 Upper=2
- Lower=3 Upper=999

11. Utilize DBI 034 Reason left herd for Minor Subgrouping and enter as follows:

- Lower=1 Upper=1
- Lower=2 Upper=2

- Lower=3 Upper=3
- Lower=4 Upper=4
- Lower=5 Upper=5
- Lower=6 Upper=6
- Lower=7 Upper=7
- Lower=8 Upper=8
- Lower=9 Upper=9

12. Click **F9** or **Preview** to view the report
13. Click **Save** to save the report settings