RED FONT IS WHAT SARAH AND BRIAN WOULD LIKE FROM THIS SURVEY

1. **Winter Housing system – adult lactating and dry cows: (Fill in each box as appropriate)**

12.a) Where are cows housed during **THE WINTER** on your farm? Please indicate every type of housing you use during **the winter** for both lactating and dry cows. If it’s a combination, please estimate the percent of time on average over a 24-hour period they spend in each housing component.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | 12.a.i) Lactating cow housing | 12.a.ii) Dry cow housing |
| Free stall |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Tie stall |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Loose housing: PACK WITH BEDDING |  |  |
|  |  |  |
| Loose housing: DRY LOT/PAD NO BEDDING |  |  |

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12.b.i) Do lactating and dry cows have access to outside paddock or exercise yard during the winter? (Check one)

□ Yes □ No

12.b.ii) If Yes, on average, what is the number of hours outside per day: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_hours

12.b.iii) Describe their outdoor turn-out space:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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12.b.iv) Do you ever clean your outdoor turn-out space?

□ Yes □ No □ ***Other (describe):*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

12.b.v) If you clean your outdoor turn-out space, how often do you do it?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

12.b.vi) **TAKE PICTURE OF OUTDOOR TURN-OUT SPACE**

12.c) When was your current winter housing system constructed?

Estimated age of winter housing system in years \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

12.d) Describe the quality of the ventilation of your winter housing using the following scale:

□ Excellent

□ Good

□ Fair

□ Poor

1. **Bedding management: Free stall or tie stall**

*If free stall or tie stall facility is used for LACTATING COWS*, *complete following section:*

**If free stall or tie stall** what is the….

13.a.i) Estimated depth of the bedding: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ inches

13.b.i) Frequency of scraping manure from back of stall surface:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

13.c.i) Do you have a gutter behind the cows, or just an evenly-graded alleyway?

□ Gutter

□ No gutter, evenly-graded alleyway

□ ***Other (describe):*** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

13.d.i) If you have an evenly-graded alleyway behind the cows, how do you clean it?

□ Continuous automated scraper

□ Skid steer or other similar equipment

□ Slatted floors

□ Flush system

□ By hand

□ Other (describe): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

13.e.i) If you have a gutter behind the cows, how often do you run the gutter cleaner?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

13.f.i) Frequency of adding new bedding material to the stalls:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

13.g.i) If you use **DEEP BEDDING** in a free or tie stall, has the bedding ever been completely dug out and removed, then replaced (e.g. removing the entire back third of bedding from free stalls)?: (Check one)

□ Regularly

□ Infrequently

□ Never

□ Not applicable, don’t deep bed in the free or tie stall

13.h.i) If deep bedding removed on a regular schedule, how frequently does this occur?

­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

13.i.i) If deep bedding removed on a regular schedule OR infrequently, when was the date last completed?

­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

13.j.i) Do you have mattresses in your stalls?

□ Yes □ No

1. **Bedding management: Loose housing**

*If loose-housing system with bedded pack is used for LACTATING COWS, complete following section:*

14.a.i) How would you describe your loose housing system bedding? (check one)

□ Bedded pack barn WITHOUT mechanical aeration or surface tilling

□ Bedded pack barn WITH mechanical aeration or surface tilling

□ Bedded pack barn with other **(describe)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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14.b.i) Average number of cows on the pack at any given time:

­­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cows

14.c.i) If the pack is aerated or tilled, how deep below the surface is it aerated/tilled?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

14.d.i) If the pack is aerated or tilled, how frequently is it aerated/tilled?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

14.e.i) How often is the pack completely removed/dug out while cows are still housed on it?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

14.f.i) How long, if ever, is the barn empty of pack and not used to house cows?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

14.g.i) Do you monitor the pack for temperature?

□ Yes □ No

14.h.i) **If you monitor the pack for temperature, how do you do this and how often?**

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14.i.i) Do you monitor the pack for moisture level?

□ Yes □ No

14.j.i) **If you monitor the pack for moisture level, how do you do this and how often?**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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14.k.i) Do you monitor the pack for density (how compacted the bedding material is)?

□ Yes □ No

14.l.i) **If you monitor the pack for density, how do you do this and how often?**

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14.m.i) **Any other factors you monitor for the pack? How do you do this and how often?**

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14.n.i) **Can you estimate the amount (mass) of bedding material added to the pack on average throughout the winter, per unit time? (e.g. two 500 lb. round bales added every day,10 yards wood chips every other week)**

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14.o.i) **Does the rate at which you add material to the pack vary throughout the season? If so, how?**

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14.p.i) Are cows fed directly on the pack (i.e., no feeding alley)?

□ Yes □ No

14.q.i) Can you describe how you initially build your pack after completely removing the

previous pack and starting over? **(audio)**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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14.r.i) If you changed to a compost bedded pack from another housing style, do you feel that cow hygiene was affected? If so, how? **(audio)**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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14.s.i) If you changed to a compost bedded pack from another housing style, do you feel that mastitis incidence was affected? If so, how? **(audio)**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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14.t.i) Anything else about your pack management and construction you feel we should know that we didn’t cover? **(audio)**

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1. **Bedding material details (for BOTH LACTATING and DRY cows)**

15.a.i) How long has the current WINTER bedding system been in use for LACTATING cows?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

15.a.i) How long has the current WINTER bedding system been in use for DRY cows?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

15.b) Type of bedding material used for lactating and dry cows: (Check any that apply)

15.b.i 15.b.ii  
 Lactating cows Dry Cows

New sand □ □

Reclaimed (recycled) sand □ □

Manure solids (Biosolids) □ □

Shavings □ □

Sawdust □ □

Woodchips □ □

Straw □ □

Hay □ □

Other (Describe): □ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ □ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

15.b.iii) If you chose more than one material for LACTATING cows, describe a typical snapshot of the composition of bedding by estimating the percentage made up by each material: (Describe on written survey)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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15.b.vi) If you chose more than one material for DRY cows, describe a typical snapshot of the composition of bedding by estimating the percentage made up by each material: (Describe on written survey)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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*Depending of their answer to 15.b.i and 15.b.ii, skip to the appropriate section(s) below, and complete this section by allowing all participants to answer 15.g*

15.c) Answer the following questions if you use **SAND:**

15.c.i) Is the sand one of the following? (check one)

□ Silica sand

□ River sand

□ Don’t know

15.c.ii) If new sand, is it washed before you purchase it? (check one)

□ Yes □ No □ Don’t know

15.c.iii) If using reclaimed sand, how is it recycled (recaptured)? (check one)

□ Passive sand separator lanes

□ Mechanical separator

□ Other (describe): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

15.c.iv) If using reclaimed sand, time in storage from recapturing the sand to reusing in stalls:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

15.c.v) If using sand, it is stored: (check one)

□ In the open □ Under cover

15.c.vi) If using reclaimed sand, check which of the following is true: (check one)

□ We use reclaimed sand 12 months per year

□ We use reclaimed sand most of the year, but in the coldest months we will purchase and use new dry clean sand.

15.d) Answer the following questions if you use **MANURE SOLIDS:**

15.d.i) How would you classify the manure solids you use? (check one)

□ Raw (Green)

□ Composted

□ Digested

□ Other (Describe): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

15.d.ii) Are the solids pressed before use? (check one)

□ Yes □ No

15.d.iii) Are the solids mechanically dried (with a dryer) before use? (check one)

□ Yes □ No

15.d.iv) If digested solids, what is the temperature is the methane digester (if known)?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_°F

15.d.v) If digested solids, what is the flow rate or material through the digester (if known)?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ weeks

15.d.vi) If using manure solids, time in storage from recapturing the solids to reusing in stalls:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

15.e) Answer the following questions if you use **STRAW or HAY:**

15.e.i) Straw or hay for bedding? (check one)

□ Straw

□ Hay

□ Both

□ Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

15.e.ii) Purchased or produced on farm? (check one)

□ Purchased

□ Produced

□ Both

□ Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

15.e.iii) If hay, dry or ensiled? (check one)

□ Dry hay (e.g. round bales)

□ Ensiled hay (e.g. wrapped round bales)

□ Both

□ Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

15.e.iv) Storage location of straw and hay used for bedding? (check one)

□ Stored under cover

□ Stored outside not under cover

□ Both

□ Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

15.f) Answer the following questions if you use **WOODCHIPS, SHAVINGS or SAWDUST:**

15.f.i) Are the shavings/chips/sawdust you used kiln dried or “fresh?” (check one)

□ Kiln dried

□ Fresh or raw

□ Both

□ Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

15.f.ii) Storage location of woodchips/shavings/sawdust used for bedding? (check one)

□ Stored under cover

□ Stored outside not under cover

□ Both

□ Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

15.g.i) Do you use bedding conditioner (e.g. hydrated lime)?   
 □ Yes □ No

15.g.ii) If Yes, name of conditioner: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

15.g.iii) AMOUNT of conditioner applied (e.g. ounces per stall, amount per sq. ft pack)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

15.g.vi) FREQUENCY of conditioner applied (e.g. times/week, times/month)?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

15.h) Anything you’d like to tell us about your bedding management practices or materials used that weren’t included in the above questions? (If yes, describe)

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1. **Herd Information**

16.a)What is/are the breeds of dairy cattle on your farm?(describe all breeds):

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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16.b) What is the rolling herd average calculated for your farm? If not on milk test, what is the average milk production per cow, in pounds of milk per cow per year?

Rolling herd average: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ lbs/cow/year

***OR:***

Average milk production: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ lbs/cow/year

16.c) What are the number of lactating cows, dry cows, and young stock on your farm?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 16.c.i Lactating cows | 16.c.ii Dry cows | 16.c.iii Young stock |
| Number |  |  |  |

Are these numbers exact or approximate? 16.d) Exact actual numbers \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Approximate numbers \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

16.e.i) What is the average age of lactating cows in your herd, in years?

Average age lactating cow in years \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

16.e.ii) How this answer was generated? (check one)

□ Milk testing results

□ On-farm software

□ Estimated

□ Other (describe): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

16.f)How many years has this farm been certified organic?

Years current farm certified organic \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

16.g) How many years have you owned or managed ANY dairy farm?

Years owned or managed a dairy farm \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

16.h) How many years have you owned or managed an ORGANIC dairy farm?

Years owned or managed an organic dairy farm \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

16.i) If you have an on-farm electronic record keeping system, what is it? (Check one)

□ DairyComp 305 (or Scout)

□ DairyPlan

□ DHI-Plus

□ PCDART

□ Does not have an on-farm electronic record keeping system

□ Other (describe): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **DHIA Information**

17.a) What are the DHIA herd and RAC (access code) numbers?

17.a.i) DHIA Herd code number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*(for VT herds this should begin with 13)*

17.a.ii) RAC \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*(this is a 4-digit number)*

*The producer may not know their RAC code off the top of their head. If they are willing it* *can be found by opening their herd management software and exploring (File – HerdDownload setup)*

17.b) How many times per year do you participate in DHIA testing (e.g. monthly/12 times per year, less frequently, or more frequently)?

Frequency of DHIA testing:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

17.c) What is the DHIA lab you test through (DHIA Lab name and state)?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Possible (likely) answers will be VT-DHIA; Lancaster DHIA, or Dairy One – you can prompt with these choices.*