



ONCE A DAY MILKING

AIM: TO SUPPORT SMALLHOLDER FARMERS TO DECIDE HOW OFTEN TO MILK THEIR ANIMALS.

1. What is Once A Day (OAD) Milking?

- ❖ Once-a-day (OAD) milking is the practice of milking cows only once during a 24-hour period – that is **usually in the morning**.

2. Why do some farmers milk once per day?

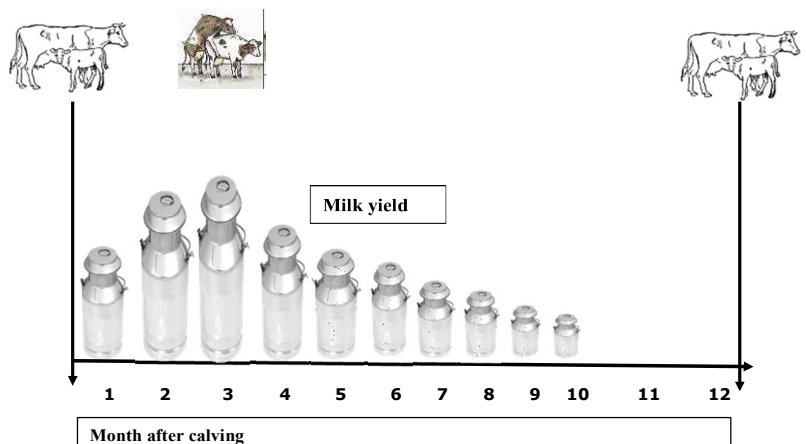
- ☺ No need to store milk on farm overnight or transport it to the MCC;
- ☺ Reduce the need for evening labour;
- ☺ Cows producing only small volumes of milk per day – because of poor feeding or being in the last part of lactation.

3. But won't I get less milk if I only milk once per day?

- ❖ Milking once per day will normally reduce overall milk production by around 10 per cent, e.g.
 - ❖ a cow producing 20 litres per day with 2 milkings, might produce 18 litres with only one morning milking (i.e. 2 litre reduction per day).
 - ❖ a cow producing less than 8-10 litres a day with 2 milkings might reduce its daily production by one litre (i.e. 1 litre reduction per day).

4. So, when could I milk once per day?

- ❖ Once-a-day milking is not recommended during the first 100 days (3 months) after calving.
- ❖ This is the time when your cow is increasing its production from day to day. This increase will be reduced by milking only once a day.





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5. How can I increase the amount of milk produced in the morning and reduce the amount of milk produced in the evening?

- ❖ If you want to get most of your milk from the cow in the morning for quick delivery to your Milk Collection Centre (MCC), it is possible to increase the time between your evening and morning milking sessions,
 - ✓ e.g. milk at 2pm (14 hrs) in the afternoon and then 7am (7 hrs) in the morning.
 - ✓ Your cow would give more milk in the morning and less in the afternoon milking.
- ❖ The smaller volume of evening milk could then be consumed by your household and calves. This would save the cost, risk and hassle of storing milk in a cool place overnight.
- ❖ **REMEMBER** calves should drink milk during their first 12 weeks of life. See *Calf Feeding fact sheet F04*.
- ❖ See *fact sheet M06* for more information on *What to do with evening milk*.



And **REMEMBER** that feeding your cow well throughout the year using our annual feeding plan can help maximise the amount of milk she produces. See *fact sheets FO6 and FO6A* on feed planning for further information.

Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Natural pasture		Supplement natural pastures (now low feeding value) with green crops such as Napier, maize or sorghum. Silage could also be used if in store from last years' production.					Silage (or hay) produced during the wet season will now be the only available fodder on farm for dairy cows as the natural pastures now are of no nutritious value.				

ZDTP is focused on supporting dairy farmers to improve their productivity, milk quality and linkages to urban markets. The views expressed in this publication are those of the implementers of the programme and do not necessarily reflect those of the New Zealand Government. For further information, please contact ZDTP on zdtpinfo@primeconsultants.net. Follow us on www.zambiadairy.com, Facebook (facebook.com/zambiadairy/) and Twitter (@DairyZambia).