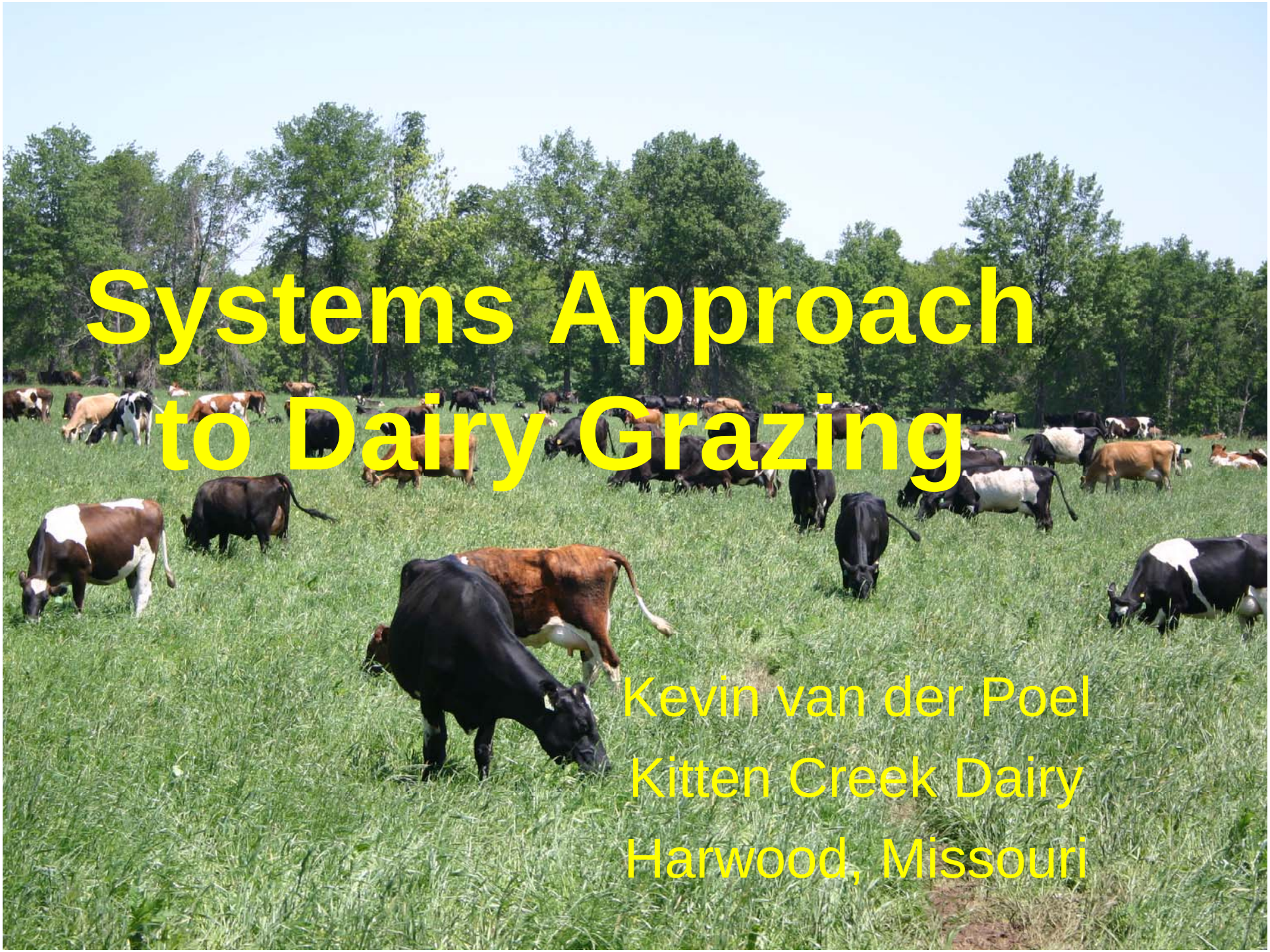
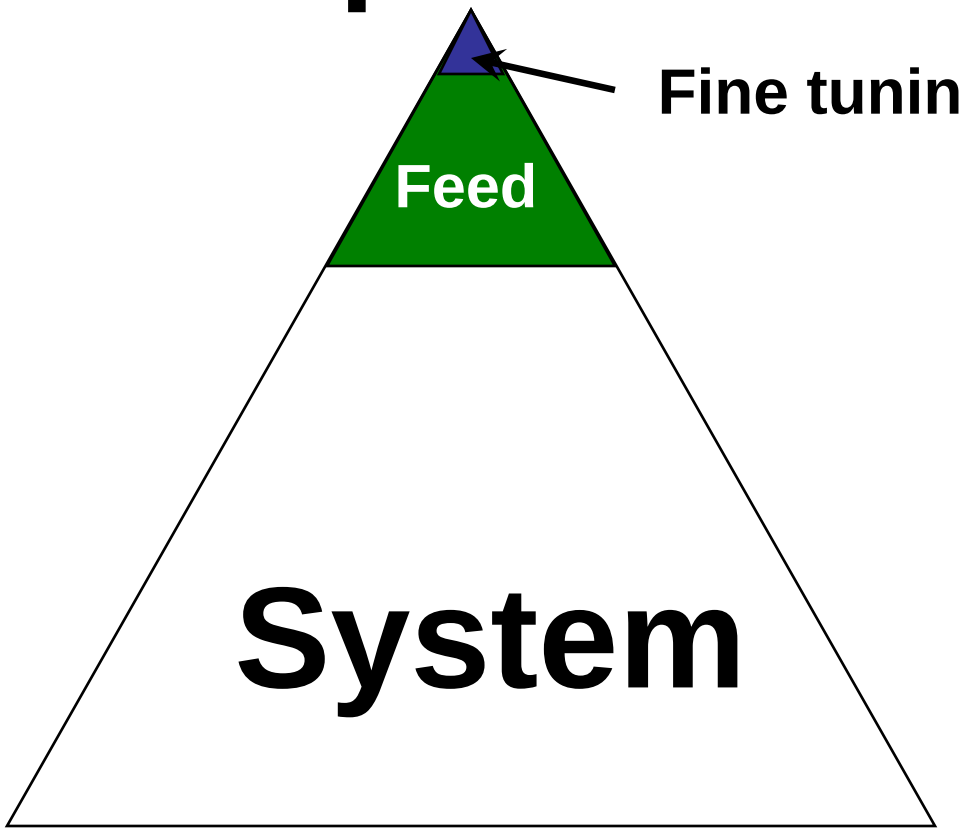


Systems Approach to Dairy Grazing

Kevin van der Poel
Kitten Creek Dairy
Harwood, Missouri

Get the priorities right



80% of potential gain made by getting the system right

Systems:
A Plan for Success

- Failing to plan is a PLAN FOR FAILURE
- Development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
  - Allows expansion and/or development
  - Allows for flexibility and adaptation
  - Each operation must determine what key elements will bring success and profitability
- KISS - KEEP IT SIMPLE STUPID

Understanding Yourself

- What are your goals?
  - For the business
  - For the family
- What are your strengths and weaknesses?
- What do you enjoy?
- No one is great at everything….Build your systems around these strengths, goals and enjoyment
- Prioritize

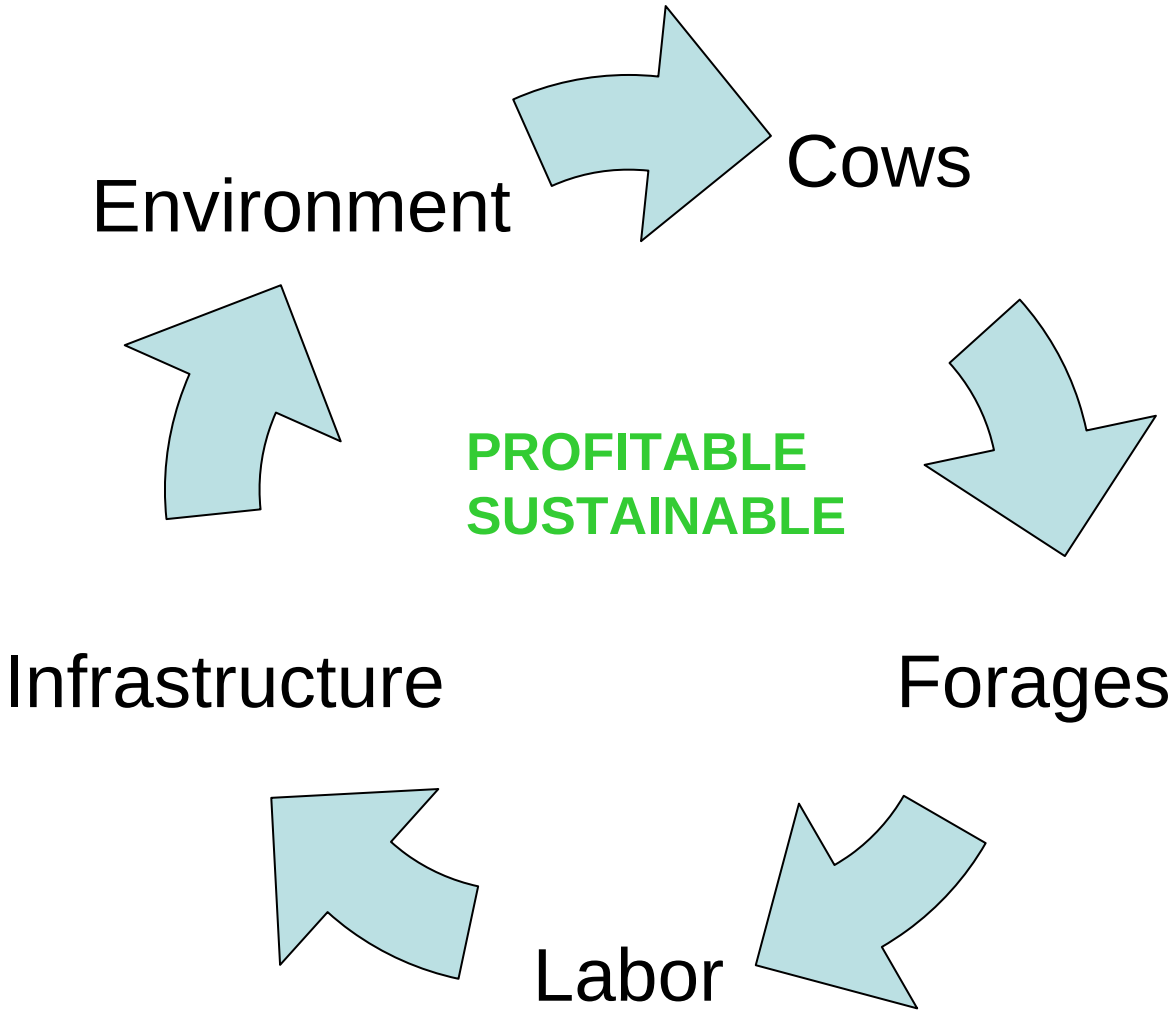
Systems Approach

- Allows proactive approach rather than reactive
- Gives a plan for owners, management and employees
- Applications not set in stone but a “living structure” that enable flexibility within the operation

Key Elements for Dairy Grazing

- Forage(s)
- Cattle
- Labor
- Infrastructure
- Environment

All Systems Inter-relate



Cow System

- What market are you in?
  - Fluid
  - Components
  - Organic or natural grass-fed
- What calving pattern do you plan?
  - Seasonal
    - Fall or spring
  - Semi-seasonal
  - Year around
- What stocking rate do you anticipate?
  - Focus on milk per acre
  - Focus on milk per cow
- Registered or Commercial cow program?

Forage System

- Single or multi-species?
- Capability of harvest?
- Irrigation?
- Climatic Conditions?
- Timing of Demand?
- Stocking Rates?

Environmental System

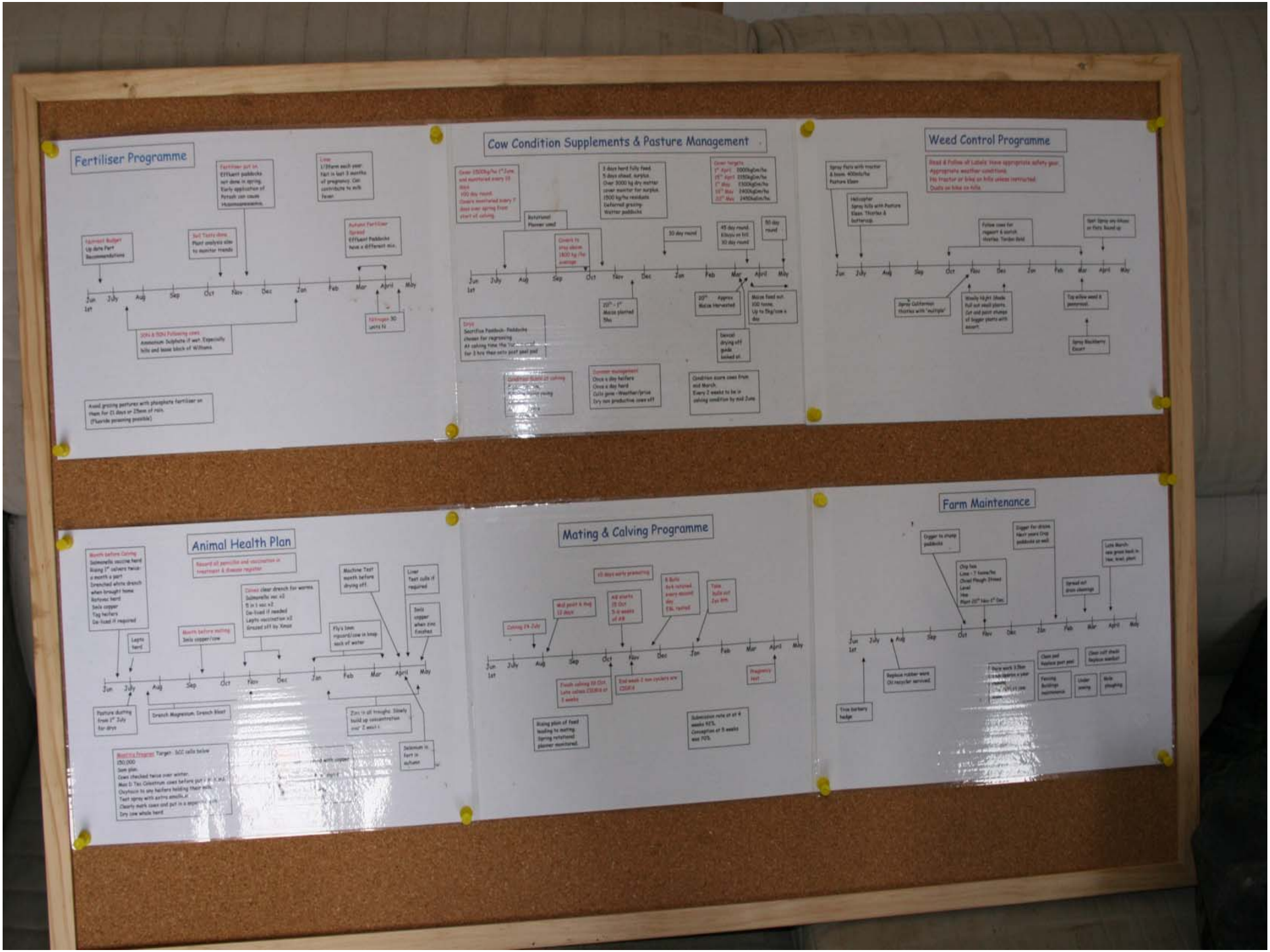
- Size or anticipated size of operation?
- Agriculture rural or suburban rural?
- Potential of accidents and/or spills?

Labor System

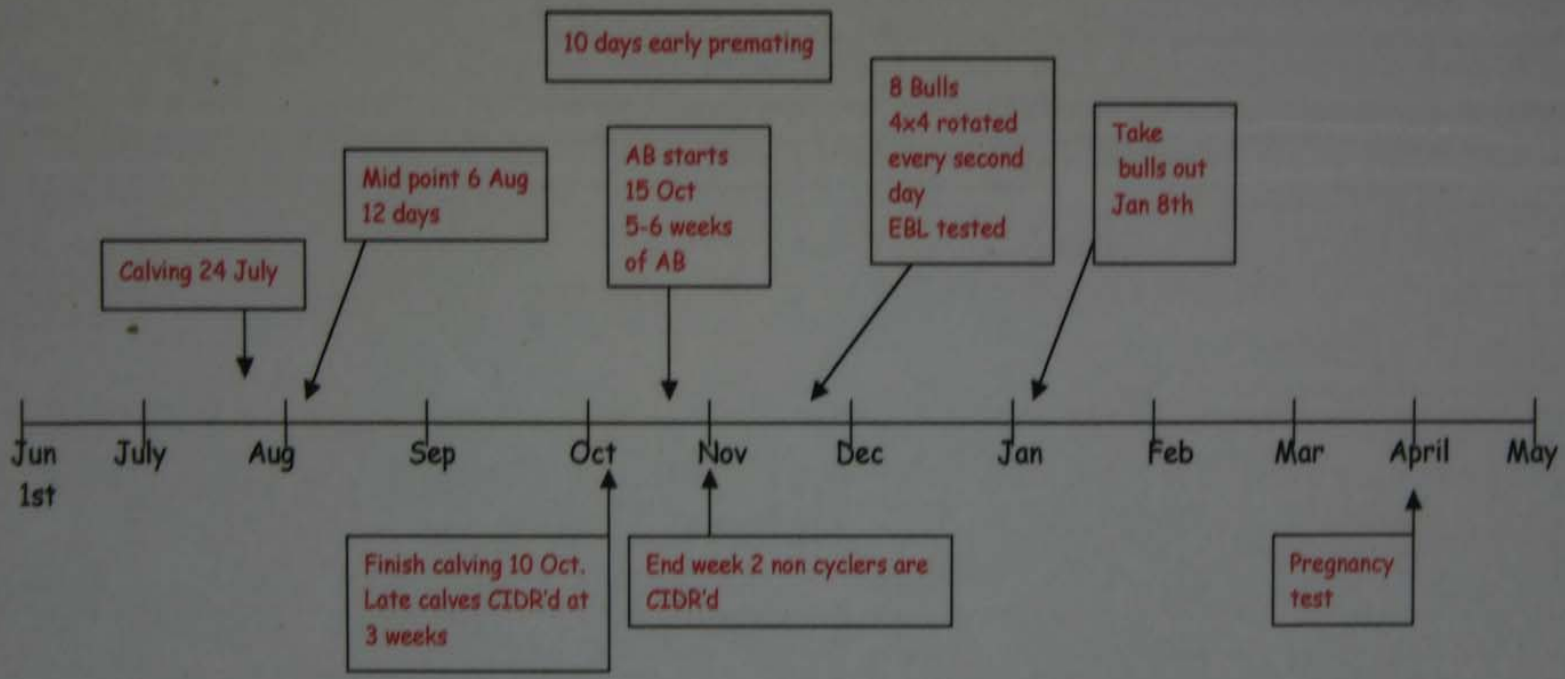
- Efficiency of milking platform?
- Attitude of employees?
- Staff availability?
- Efficiency of labor?
  - Milk per employee?
  - Cows per employee?

Infrastructure System

- Type of Pasture Farm
- Capability of employees?
- Cost outlay?
- Forage Harvesting?
- Milk Harvesting?
- Water supply?

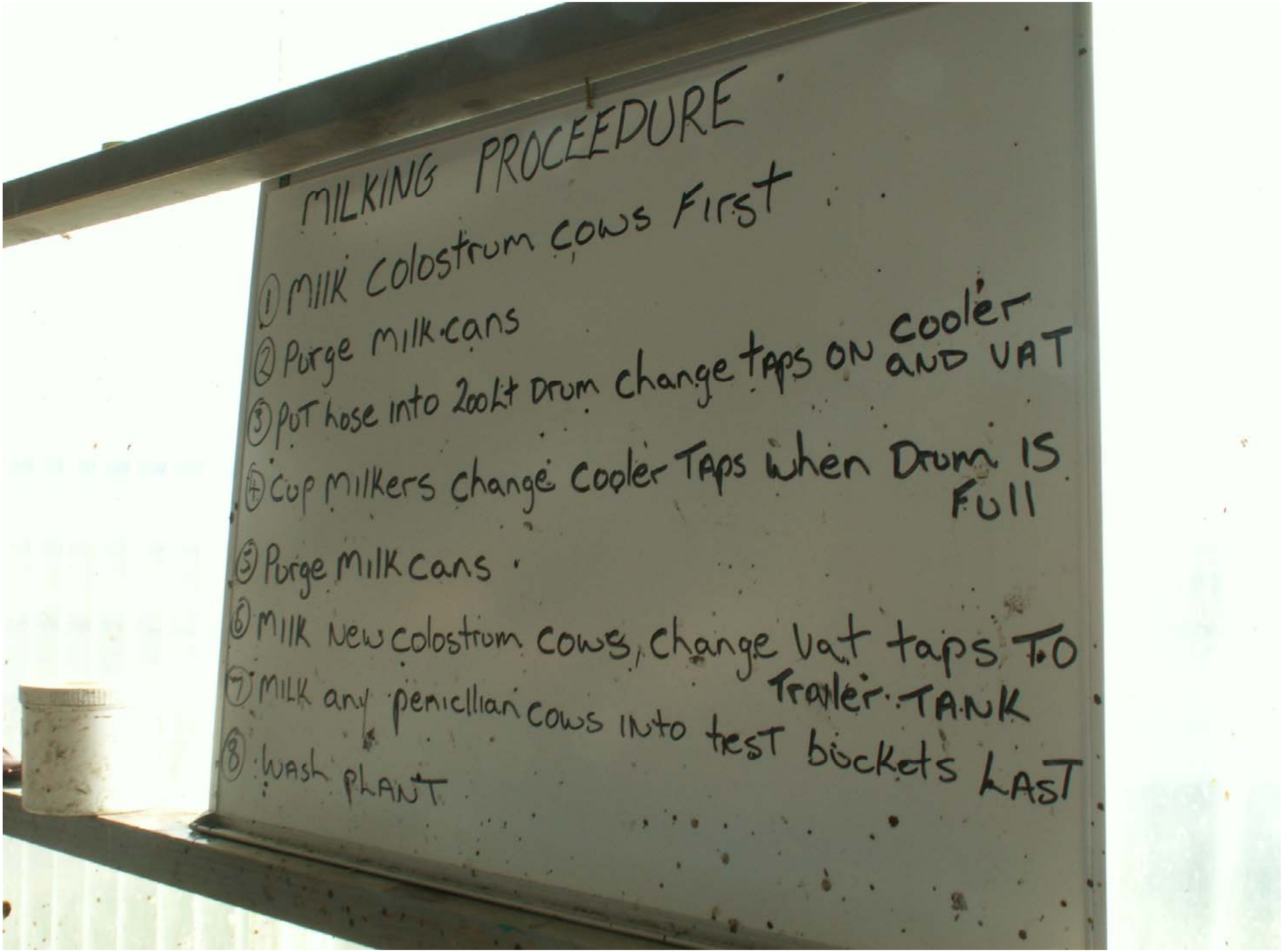

Fertiliser Programme
Cow Condition Supplements & Pasture Management
Weed Control Programme
Animal Health Plan
Mating & Calving Programme
Farm Maintenance

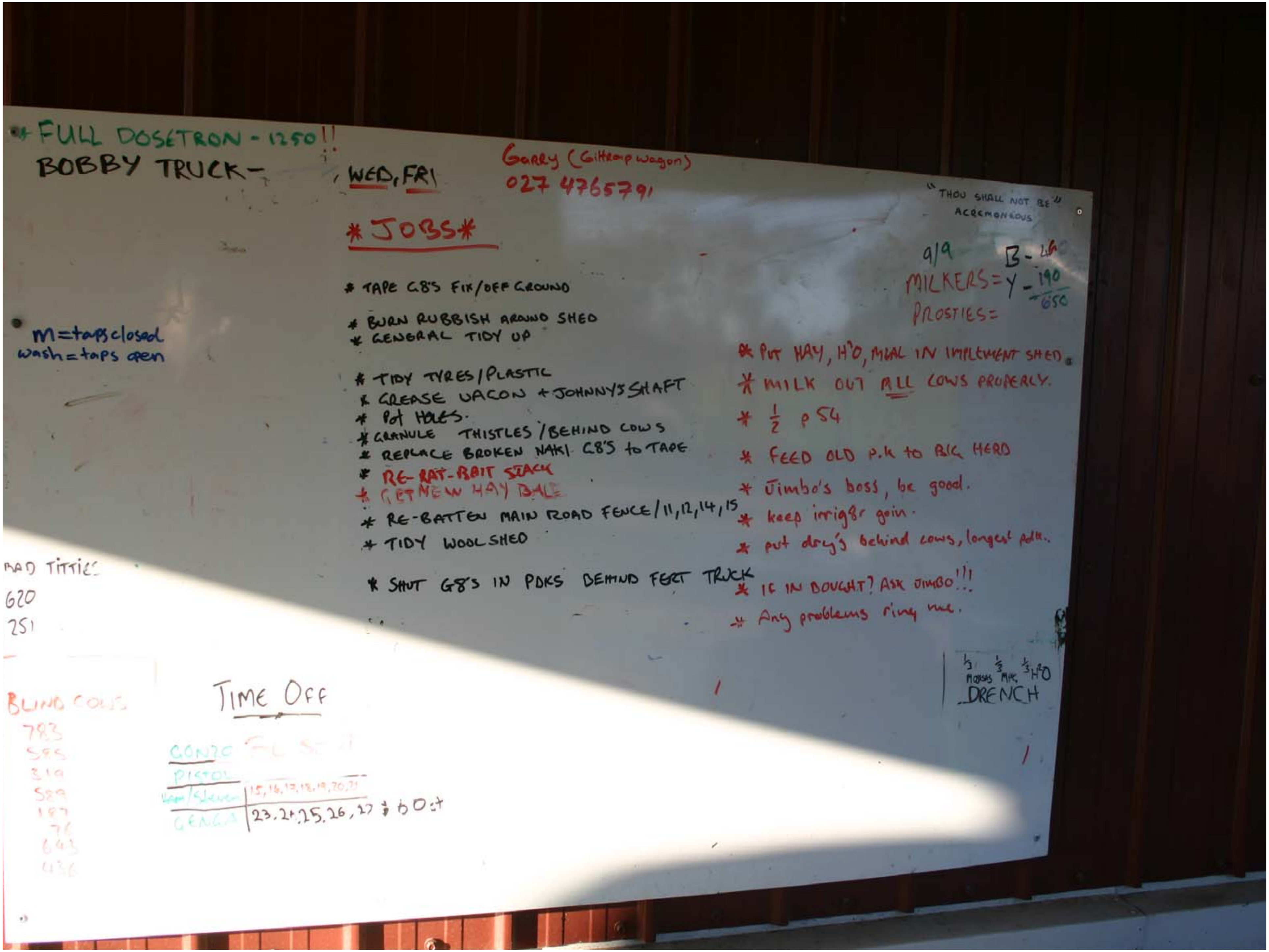
Mating & Calving Programme



Rising plain of feed leading to mating. Spring rotational planner monitored.

Submission rate at at 4 weeks 92%. Conception at 5 weeks was 70%


MILKING PROCEEDURE
1 MILK Colostrum COWS First
2 Purge MILK cans
3 PUT hose into 200Lt Drum change taps ON cooler AND VAT
4 Cup MILKers change Cooler TAPS when Drum IS FULL
5 Purge MILK cans
6 MILK New colostrum COWS, change Vat taps TO Trailer TANK
7 MILK any penicillan COWS INTO test buckets LAST
8 WASH PLANT


FULL DOSETRON - 1250!!
BOBBY TRUCK - WED, FRI
Garry (Gillrap wagon)
027 4765791
"THOU SHALL NOT BE" ACRIMONIOUS
JOBS
* TAPE C8'S FIX/OFF GROUND
* BURN RUBBISH AROUND SHED
* GENERAL TIDY UP
* TIDY TYRES/PLASTIC
* GREASE VACON + JOHNNY'S SHAFT
* Pot HOLES.
* GRANULE THISTLES / BEHIND COWS
* REPLACE BROKEN NAKI C8'S to TAPE
* RE-RAT-BAIT STACK
* GET NEW HAY BALE
* RE-BATTEN MAIN ROAD FENCE / 11, 12, 14, 15
* TIDY WOOL SHED
* SHUT G8'S IN PDKS BEHIND FERT TRUCK
9/9
MILKERS =
PROSTIES =
* Put HAY, H2O, MEAL IN IMPLEMENT SHED.
* MILK OUT ALL COWS PROPERLY.
* 1/2 p 54
* FEED OLD p.k to BIG HERD
* Jimbo's boss, be good.
* keep irrig8r goin.
* put dry's behind cows, longest pdk.
* IF IN DOUGHT? ASK JIMBO!!!
* Any problems ring me.
m = taps closed
wash = taps open
BAD TITTIES
620
251
BLIND COWS
TIME OFF
GONZO
PISTOL
23, 24, 25, 26, 27
DRENCH

Summary

- Understand yourself.
- Decide on systems that suit you.
- Keep it simple so everyone can understand.