



A New and Improved Way to Determine the 80% Identification Requirement for Publishable Lactations

To date, as long as a 1st lactation animal had a “unique identification number” (ie. NLID-tagged), it was considered 'identified' and contributed to the minimum 80% requirement, even if the animal was not verified as registered in a breed association herd book.

In January 2003, a new methodology will be introduced to determine if a herd meets the 80% identification requirement, based on herd book animals rather than simply having a “unique identification number”. This calculation will then be used to determine whether the herd’s lactation records qualify for official publication.

The new criteria will assess the percentage of 1st lactation animals **verified as** registered in a breed association herd book at any level from 0% to Purebred. Only animals that have been in the herd for at least 90 days are included in the calculation. **A high percentage of registered animals ensures the majority of a herd contributes to the rolling herd average and thus have deviations calculated.** Herd deviations are used in awards issued by the breed associations and are also important in assessing the merit of animals across herds.

The 90-day time period should allow the owner adequate time to submit and process any animals that are not registered, which will result in a more fair calculation for herds with a large number of recipients or with animals moving in and out of the herd.

For each herd test, calculate:

R = Number of 1st lactation cows in the herd for at least 90 days following their first test that are **verified as** registered with a Breed Association

N = Total number of 1st lactation cows in the herd for at least 90 days following their first test

To derive the percentage of animals that are herd book registered for purposes of the lactation publication requirement:

$$\frac{\text{Sum (R over all herd tests in previous 380 days)}}{\text{Sum (N over all herd tests in previous 380 days)}}$$

Herd owners and DHI staff should use the DHI reports to monitor the animal registration levels in the herd. The general guideline for producers who wish to have publishable lactation records is that all their 1st lactation animals should be registered with a breed association. To achieve this goal, producers are encouraged to register all heifers immediately after birth or immediately upon entry in the herd in the case of new animals. To account for exceptional circumstances, a built-in tolerance factor allows a herd to remain publishable as long as the percentage of 1st lactation animals registered remains above 80% over a rolling 12-month time period.

Questions or concerns can be directed to your milk-recording representative, your breed association or the Industry Standards Committee, a sub-committee of the Canadian Dairy Network that is responsible for establishing the publishable lactation requirements.