CowSigns®

A Service of ABS Global, Inc.

Comfortable, healthy cows are more profitable and live longer lives. In order to aid ABS customers in ensuring they have comfortable, healthy cows on their operation, ABS has developed CowSigns. CowSigns objectively measures the correlation between a proper environment and cow performance.

CowSigns is a software product designed for handheld PDA devices. It enables users to record cow observations while on-farm and visually display the results to the customers instantaneously. With these results, ABS customers can work with the Technical Services team to identify areas of strength and opportunity for an improved environment and optimal performance.

"CowSigns is a modern tool for herd data collection. This program can be used by producers, consultants, and breeders to identify opportunities that optimize the cow management and environment and increase profitability of the herd. CowSigns allows to progressively track changes and evaluate the economic impact of the recommendations; which are key factors of the decision making process at the farm level"
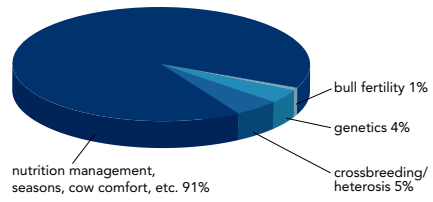
Dr. Hernando Lopez,
Global Technical Services Director

A CowSigns assessment may include the following areas:

- Cow Comfort
- Cud Chewing
- Manure Scoring
- Body Condition Scoring
- Turn Time
- Locomotion Scoring
- Teat Skin Scoring
- Teat End Scoring
- Cow Cleanliness Scoring

Figure 1 depicts the strong correlation between the environment and reproductive and milk production performance. Utilizing CowSigns to identify how reproduction and milk production is being affected by the environment can help improve the environment, maximize reproductive and reproductive performance and increase the overall profitability of your dairy.

REPRODUCTION

- bull fertility 1%
- genetics 4%
- crossbreeding/heterosis 5%
- nutrition management, seasons, cow comfort, etc. 91%

MILK PRODUCTION

- genetics 30%
- crossbreeding/heterosis 5%
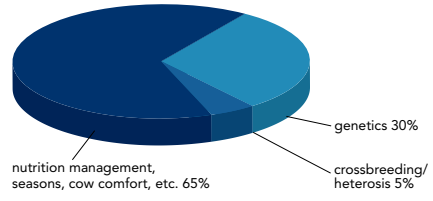- nutrition management, seasons, cow comfort, etc. 65%

Figure 1 - Derived from Miglior and co-workers, Journal of Dairy Science 78: 1174 & Fuerst, Journal of Dairy Science 77: 1114

Below is an example of CowSigns reporting-

LOCOMOTION SCORING RESULTS - Goal is <10%