

## **INSTRUCTIONS**

The work we have done so far on your farm is designed to tell us something about the behaviour of dairy cows. To continue with this work, we would like to find out more about the characteristics of commercial dairy cows. Are they similar to other farm animals or other domestic animals? Are they easy to work with? Are they quiet or noisy, intelligent or stupid?

Because you work with them all of the time, we would like to ask you to use your knowledge and experience to answer some questions about dairy cows and also some more general questions about working in the dairy industry. Your opinion on these aspects will assist us in our study of the behaviour of dairy cows.

Some questions will be about cows, some about your working with them, and some about dairy farming. It will take about half an hour to do and we would really appreciate it if you could help.

## **QUESTIONS**

What follows are some questions designed to tell us something about how dairy cows behave at different ages. The questions will ask you to comment on how the cows react to you at different ages, and how the ease or difficulty inworking with them changes. Section Two are some questions about milkers, and Section Three are about calves. Please answer each question as honestly as you can.

**Section One: Statements about cows**

**Please respond to each statement in terms of a five-point scale defined by the labels: disagree strongly; disagree; neither agree nor disagree; agree; agree strongly.**

No.	Statement about cows	Tick under the most appropriate category				
		Disagree Strongly	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Agree Strongly
1	Dairy cows are easy animals to work with					
2	Dairy cows are noisy animals					
3	Dairy cows are curious animals					
4	Dairy cows are smelly animals					
5	Dairy cows don't feel pain like humans					
6	Little experience is required to work with dairy cows					
7	Dairy cows are a pleasure to work with					
8	Dairy cows are dirty animals					
9	Dairy cows are entertaining to watch					
10	Dairy cows are intelligent animals					
11	Dairy cows have an ugly appearance					
12	Dairy cows are greedy					
13	Calves are energetic					
14	Dairy cows are easily frightened					
15	Dairy cows require respect					
16	Dairy cows are aggressive to their own kind					
17	Dairy cows are frustrating to work with					
18	Dairy cows are friendly towards					
19	Little training is required to work with dairy cows					
20	Dairy cows are stimulating animals					
21	Dairy cows are easy to manage					
22	Dairy cows are lazy animals					
23	Dairy cows are frightened of humans					
24	Little time is required to manage dairy cows					
25	Calves are cute					

**Section Two: Questions about lactating cows**

**Q1 How difficult are dairy cows to care for at the ages listed below?**

*Lactating Heifers*

Very difficult Very easy  
1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*Older Milkers*

Very difficult Very easy  
1            2            3            4            5            6            7

**Q2 How often do you sit or stand (say for more than 2 minutes) and just watch the cows at the following ages?**

*Lactating Heifers*

Very often Very rarely  
1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*Older Milkers*

Very often Very rarely  
1            2            3            4            5            6            7

**Q3 To what extent do your cows flinch when you put the cups on?**

*Lactating Heifers*

A lot Very little  
1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*Older Milkers*

A lot Very little  
1            2            3            4            5            6            7

**Q4 How much time is required to effectively care for dairy cows at the following ages?**

*Lactating Heifers*

A lot Very little  
1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*Older Milkers*

A lot Very little  
1            2            3            4            5            6            7

**Q5a How much physical effort (e.g. pushing and slapping) is required to move the cows into the milking shed at the following ages?**

*Lactating Heifers*

A lot Very little  
1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*Older Milkers*

A lot Very little  
1            2            3            4            5            6            7

**Q5b How much physical effort (e.g. pushing and slapping) is required to move the cows out of the milking shed at the following ages?**

*Lactating Heifers*

A lot Very little  
1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*Older Milkers*

A lot Very little  
1            2            3            4            5            6            7

**Q6a How much variation in milk yeild do you observe amongst your dairy cows at the following ages?**

*Lactating Heifers*

A lot Very little  
1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*Older Milkers*

A lot Very little  
1            2            3            4            5            6            7

**Q6b How much variation do you observe from day to day amongst dairy cows in speed of milk let down or milking time at the following ages?**

*Lactating Heifers*

A lot Very little  
1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*Older Milkers*

A lot Very little  
1            2            3            4            5            6            7

**Q7a How do the dairy cows, at the following ages, react to your presence in the milking shed when you are active in the shed?**

*Lactating Heifers*

Much movement Little movement

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*Older Milkers*

Much movement Little movement

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

**Q7b How do the dairy cows, at the following ages, react to your presence in the milking shed when you are stationary?**

*Lactating Heifers*

Much movement Little movement

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*Older Milkers*

Much movement Little movement

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

**Q8a How important is it to keep to a regular daily routine in caring for dairy cows?**

*Lactating Heifers*

Very important Not important

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*Older Milkers*

Very important Not important

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

**Q8b How sensitive are your dairy cows to changes in the daily husbandry routine at the following ages?**

*Lactating Heifers*

Very sensitive Not sensitive

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*Older Milkers*

Very sensitive Not sensitive

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

**Q9 How often do you talk to your dairy cows during milking at the following ages?**

*Lactating Heifers*

A lot Very little  
1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*Older Milkers*

A lot Very little  
1            2            3            4            5            6            7

**Q10a How easy are your dairy cows to move into the milking shed at the ages listed below?**

*Lactating Heifers*

Very easy Very difficult  
1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*Older Milkers*

Very easy Very difficult  
1            2            3            4            5            6            7

**10b How easy are your dairy cows to move out of the milking shed after milking at the ages listed below?**

*Lactating Heifers*

Very easy Very difficult  
1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*Older Milkers*

Very easy Very difficult  
1            2            3            4            5            6            7

**Q11 How well do your dairy cows recognise you compared to strangers at the following ages?**

*Lactating Heifers*

Very well No recognition  
1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*Older Milkers*

Very well No recognition  
1            2            3            4            5            6            7

**Q12 How much variation in behaviour do you notice between the cows that first come in for milking and those that come in last for milking at each milking session?**

*Lactating Heifers*

A lot Very little

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*Older Milkers*

A lot Very little

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

**Q13a How much verbal effort (whistling, shouting) is required to move the dairy cows into the milking shed at the following ages?**

*Lactating Heifers*

A lot of effort Very little effort

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*Older Milkers*

A lot of effort Very little effort

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

**Q13b How much verbal effort (whistling, shouting) is required to move the dairy cows out of the milking shed at the following ages?**

*Lactating Heifers*

A lot of effort Very little effort

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*Older Milkers*

A lot of effort Very little effort

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

**Q14 How often do you have a problem with cups falling off during milking?**

*Lactating Heifers*

Very often Never

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*Older Milkers*

Very often Never

1            2            3            4            5            6            7

**Q15 How timid are your cows at the following ages?**

*Lactating Heifers*

Very timid Not at all timid  
1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*Older Milkers*

Very timid Not at all timid  
1            2            3            4            5            6            7

**Q16 Do you use automatic cup removers after milking? (Yes or No)**

*Lactating Heifers*

Yes No

*Older Milkers*

Yes No

**Q17 How difficult is it to break your heifers into milking?**

Very difficult Very easy  
1            2            3            4            5            6            7

**Q18 How often do you pat or stroke your dairy cows during milking at the following ages?**

*Lactating Heifers*

A lot Very little  
1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*Older Milkers*

A lot Very little  
1            2            3            4            5            6            7

**Q19 How important is it to keep to a regular daily routine in caring for dairy cows?**

*Lactating Heifers*

Very important Not important  
1            2            3            4            5            6            7

*Older Milkers*

Very important Not important  
1            2            3            4            5            6            7



**Section Three: Questions about calves**

**Q20 How difficult are calves to care for?**

Very difficult Very easy  
1            2            3            4            5            6            7

**Q21 How often do you sit or stand (say for more than 2 minutes) and just watch your calves?**

Very often Very rarely  
1            2            3            4            5            6            7

**Q22 How much time is required to effectively care for calves?**

A lot Very little  
1            2            3            4            5            6            7

**Q23 How much physical effort (e.g. pushing and slapping) is required to move calves?**

A lot Very little  
1            2            3            4            5            6            7

**Q24 How important is it to keep a regular daily routine in caring for calves?**

Very important Not important  
1            2            3            4            5            6            7

**Q25 How sensitive are your calves to changes in the daily husbandry routine?**

Very sensitive Not sensitive  
1            2            3            4            5            6            7

**Q26 How well do your calves recognise you compared to strangers?**

Very well No recognition  
1            2            3            4            5            6            7

**Q27 How timid are your calves?**

Very timid Not at all timid  
1            2            3            4            5            6            7