

2.3 Once a day milking (OAD)

Milking OAD is an option to save time and reduce stress on people in the spring. However, milking OAD does have an impact on the potential milk production for the season. The percentage loss will be the same whether the farm system has the feed for the cow to produce 300kg MS/cow or 500kg MS/cow. *Table 6* below estimates the impact of OAD milking on potential production.

Table 6 Impact of milking OAD on potential production

Time and length of OAD milking	Estimate of lost potential milk production for season for cows milked OAD
Colostrum cows milked OAD	3 - 5%
Milking OAD for first 10-14 days	5 - 10%
Milking OAD for the first 6 weeks of lactation	15 - 20%
Milking OAD for season	20% Jerseys; 30% Friesians

However, for many farms reducing the workload at peak has more benefit than the loss in the potential milksolids.

2.4 Minerals and metabolic disorders

Magnesium supplementation (FarmFact 3.1) is even more important when cows are being restricted and when grazing N boosted pastures. Ensure that all trace elements (FarmFact 3.4) are adequate and that staff are aware of different metabolic problems such as milk fever, ketosis, acidosis (feeding high starch diets) and hypo magnesia.

Consider mineral levels (especially Ca, P, Na) when feeding high levels of grain-based supplements to milking cows.