

15 examples to work more efficiently on dairy farms

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This topic is...

... based on the results of the Interreg-project CowForme:

www.cowforme.eu



... and now followed up by two regional Leader-projects

4 parts in this presentation

1. Organise your farm



2. Communication



3. Organise your work



4. Create standard protocols





Example 2: optimize number of heifers

A lot of farms: 100 milking cows – 100 heifers?

↔ Dirk & Griet: 105 milking cows and +-50 young animals
goal: 25% replacement rate

How to? Think good before an insemination!

[Nieuwe tool voor de melkveehouder:](#)

[Insemineer met het juiste rietje! | RUNDVEELOKET](#)

Use bull advice or take some time to note after every cow the bull you will use by the next heat detection.

Time gain – less physical load – mental peace



Example 3: develop your rooms



Time gain – less physical load – mental peace



Example 4: a good way to milk the cow after calving



Time gain – less physical load – mental peace



Example 5: create easy stuff for your plastics



Time gain – less physical load – mental peace



Example 6: fencing for cows to shelter



Time gain – less physical load – mental peace



Example 7: a trolley for draining and transporting buckets



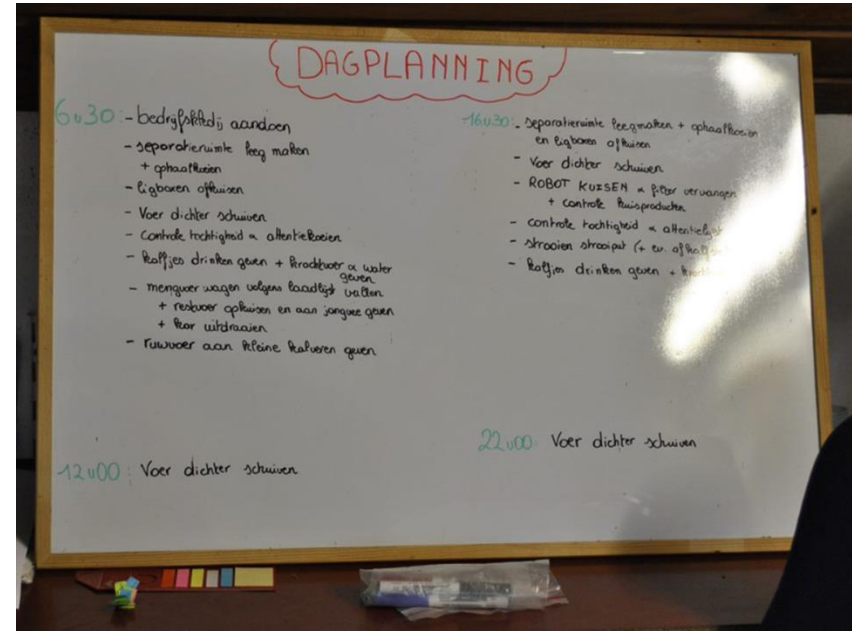


Example 8: Whiteboard

In the milk stand to note if a particular cow is producing abnormal milk (e.g. udder infection), for example

In the machine shed to note what maintenance needs to be done but is not urgent

To communicate the daily schedule for all staff (including family)



Time gain – less physical load – **mental peace**



Example 9: Whatsapp

Create a separate 'company' group with all stakeholders to communicate about tasks that need to be done.

E.g. someone sees a drafty cow, they put this in the group, the person doing the inseminations is informed this way.



Time gain – less physical load – **mental peace**



Example 10: Use apps to share your agenda & tasks

- Share your agenda: between husband and wife, between all of the employees, ...
 - Outlook
 - Android agenda / Apple Agenda
 - ...
- Apps to share your tasks:
 - Microsoft to do
 - Google keep
 - Todoist
 - ...

Time gain – less physical load – **mental peace**



Example 11: Use the 80% rule

- Jan Hulsen (Vetvice) recommends that when you plan your day, you may never exceed the 80% limit of your work, because you need always some free time for unexpected tasks.



Time gain – less physical load – **mental peace**



Example 12: Work preventive

- Preventive maintenance of machines, e.g. mixer truck, tractor, ...Tip: put this on the (monthly) planning, agree this with the person who does this maintenance, ... something that is planned in concrete will also happen and offers peace of mind, not planning gives faster risk that it is postponed.
- Use a whiteboard to note the problems between two maintenances.
- Make priorities to have an overview

Time gain – less physical load – **mental peace**



Example 13: Link certain tasks

Link certain tasks together, that way you don't forget them and it's done immediately.

e.g. dry mounting + tail shaving + trimming

e.g. check stock of feed silos / ... at the same time as another task

e.g. 1 day of major maintenance on all machines with a few mechanics

Time gain – less physical load – **mental peace**



Example 14: Always probe the calves

Some farmers say us that it really helps to gain some time, others aren't convinced.

But we think it's good to think about this and other similar tasks to make certain arrangements.



Time gain – less physical load – **mental peace**

Thanks for the attention

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