

MILL CREEK VETERINARY SERVICES: HERD HEALTH TIPS
CALM COWS CAN INCREASE PROFITS

Handling cows gently may increase profits. There has been quite a bit of research suggesting increase in yields if animals are routinely handled in a calm manner. Although most dairies in our area (Central California Valley) tend to be large (difficultly in providing individual cow attention), an overall calm approach when dealing with the herd may be beneficial financially. Also consider ease and efficiency in cattle movement when designing facilities

For example, a study presented at the National Mastitis Council/Dairy Housing Conference held last year showed:

<u>Action of Cow</u>	<u>Pleasant Handling vs.</u>	<u>Aversive Handling</u>
MILK YIELD	15% MORE	LESS
MEAN ENTRY TIME TO PARLOR	38% SHORTER	LONGER
DEFECATIONS IN PARLOR	83% LESS	MORE

Just something to think about.