Key Performance Indicators (KPI)

In April 2011 Dr James Hanks and Dr Mohamad Kossaibati published four studies on Key Performance Indicators, one for each of the major breeds. The KPI reports, which can be downloaded from www.panlivestock.com/Interherd+.htm looks at data from NMR milk recorded herds for the year 2010. The Guernsey KPI uses the information from 33 milk recorded herds and gives a good overall picture on how the breed is performing in areas such as milk production, SCC and fertility.

The KPI can be used as a benchmarking tool specific to the Guernsey breed. Because it shows figures from both high and low performing herds it can help herd managers pinpoint areas in their own herds which they are doing well in and those that perhaps need a bit of attention.

As only Guernsey herds were included in this study we can say with confidence that it shows what a Guernsey herd is capable of achieving when conditions are right.

One particular area that was looked at was the Calving to 1st service interval.

We are all aware that the breed calving interval has been increasing. It currently stands at 420 days. In 2000 it was 396 days.

Obviously a lot of factors influence Calving Interval (CI) one of the most basic is when the cow is served.

- To calve every year she must be served by 80 days.
- The best quality eggs are produced in the dry period when the cow is least stressed.
- Egg quality after she has calved deteriorates after the 80 day mark. The cow is busy producing milk, is perhaps in negative energy etc.
- Why then, does this study show that on average the breed calving to 1st service interval is 101 days!

Of the 33 recorded herds, only five managed on average to serve their cows by 80 days. But this study SHOWS that it CAN BE DONE!

There are some people that say that if a cow is giving a lot of milk (10,000+ litres) you should not serve her. Unless she has a very flat lactation curve your best chance of getting her back in calf is in those first 80 days.

The table below shows the impact of CI on Lactation Yield and Annual Milk Yield.

	Calving Int (months)		
	12	15	18
Lactation Yield	6000	6638	6934
Annual Yield (litres/365 days)	6000	5314	4627
Avge Daily Yield Litres	16.4	14.6	12.7
Drying off milk yield	11	9	8

Source DARD 2005

As you can see from the table above, an extended calving interval actually gives you less milk to sell on an annual basis.

The Guernsey KPI shows that 23 of the 33 recorded herds have a CI greater than 420 days. The cost per extra day extension of CI (£/day) was in 2005 £2.42 per day. Today Kingshay quote a figure of £4.50 per cow, per day.

In a 100 cow herd a calving interval of 420 days will cost you £24,750 per year.

Herd size	420 day Calving Interval (£Cost)
50	12,375
80	19,800
100	24,750
120	29,700
140	34,650

In today's financial climate can you afford to throw money away?

Download the KPI report and compare your herds figures to other breeders. If you use a BOCM nutritionist they will provide you with a KPI Insight report tailored specifically to your herd.