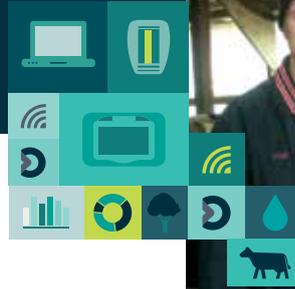


“ If cow health is important to you, the rumination monitoring will make the system pay for itself – and that’s without even considering the heat activity part.

Karl Funk, Co-Owner, Funk’s Midway Dairy

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Funk’s Dairy reduces costs and gains peace of mind with SCR rumination and activity monitoring system



AT A GLANCE

Farm: Funk’s Midway Dairy
Location: New Munich, MN
Herd size: 600 cows

Challenges

- Significantly reduce visual heat observation labor and time
- Support new nutrition strategy and gain early confirmation on effects of changes
- Improve decision making on veterinary treatments to reduce costs and increase peace of mind
- Significantly reduce time spent monitoring fresh cows

System

- SCR’s Heatime® HR Tag with rumination, heat detection and cow identification functionality
- SCR’s DataFlow II herd monitoring software

Benefits

- Timed breedings are now 3%, down from 9% prior to SCR system
- Decreased ov-synch costs by 66% due to improved nutrition and SCR system
- Drug costs for severe mastitis are down by 33%
- Ketosis drench costs are down by 30%
- Faster fresh cow observation frees up time for hoof trimming – saving estimated \$2,200 annually

BACKGROUND

A true family farm, Funk’s Midway Dairy, located near Melrose, Minnesota, was established in the 1970s by John and Dorothy Funk. Today the dairy is run by John and Dorothy and their three sons: Karl, Jeff and Greg. The farm grows its own feed: corn, soy beans and alfalfa, with some commodities purchased to supplement nutrition.

CHALLENGES

As highly experienced, excellent herdsman, the Funks have always successfully bred off natural heat, and are justifiably proud of their longstanding 27-30% pregnancy rate. However, as the farm grew, it became harder to train new employees to watch effectively for standing heat. Also, the Funks were looking for a better way to monitor the health of their fresh cows. “It was always a guess as to how the fresh cows were doing. Most are healthy but you’re always watching,” explains Karl Funk.

