

## Stop Milking

- Length of the dry period influences milk yield in the subsequent lactation
- Involution
  - Non-secreted milk is absorbed
  - Udder Secretory cells are rapidly lost
  - Process is complete within about 2 weeks
- Prior to Calving – hormones cause rapid proliferation of secretory cells
  - Length of dry period influences proliferation of secretory cells

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## Length of Dry Period

- 6 to 8 Weeks in Length is Optimal
- Dry periods less than 40 days reduce milk yield in the following lactation
- Dry periods that are too long can result in excessive weight gain

**4 to 6 more Lbs of Milk per day for Younger animals with 7 week versus 4 week dry period**

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## Dry Off Methods

- Milk out
  - Dry treat with intramammary tube
- Don't milk again
- High producing cows can be treated in the same fashion
- Feed and water can be limited for 12 – 24 hrs
  - Not during periods of heat stress
- If using bST
  - Last injection 3 weeks prior to expected dry date
- Moderate BCS at dry off
- Thin cows can gain weight safely during the dry period
- Fat cows should remain stable
  - Weight loss can result in metabolic disorders

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## Take Back to the Barn

- 40 – 60 day dry period
- Moderate BCS
- Abruptly stop milking to dry off
- Last bST shot 3 weeks prior to dry date



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