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**Death Losses for Lactating Cows in Herds Enrolled in Dairy Herd Improvement Test**

**Plans.** *By Miller et al., page 3710.* Death frequency was studied for US cows on Dairy Herd Improvement test from 1995 through 2005. Average frequency of death per lactation was 3.1%. Some of the 1.6% increase found between 1995 and 2005 was likely caused by a change in regulations for disposal of downer cows. Frequency of death was 16.5% greater during early lactation compared with late lactation. Deaths increased with parity and with lactation milk yield. Deaths were most frequent in July and least frequent in November. The estimate of 1.3% for heritability of death frequency indicated that management factors are the major contributors to death loss.