Journal of Dairy Science Interpretive Summary
July 2007 (90:3220–3233)

Prepartum Behavior and Dry Matter Intake Identify Dairy Cows at Risk for Metritis. By Huzzey et al., page 3220. One hundred and one Holstein dairy cows were observed beginning 2 wk before until 3 wk after calving, with continuous monitoring of feeding, drinking, and social behavior as well as feed and water intake. The presence or absence of metritis was assessed every 3 d after calving for 3 wk. Cows with severe or mild metritis had lower feed intake, feeding time, and water intake relative to healthy cows before calving and before any clinical signs of infection. These results indicate that these behavior and intake measures may be used to improve early detection of cows at risk for metritis.