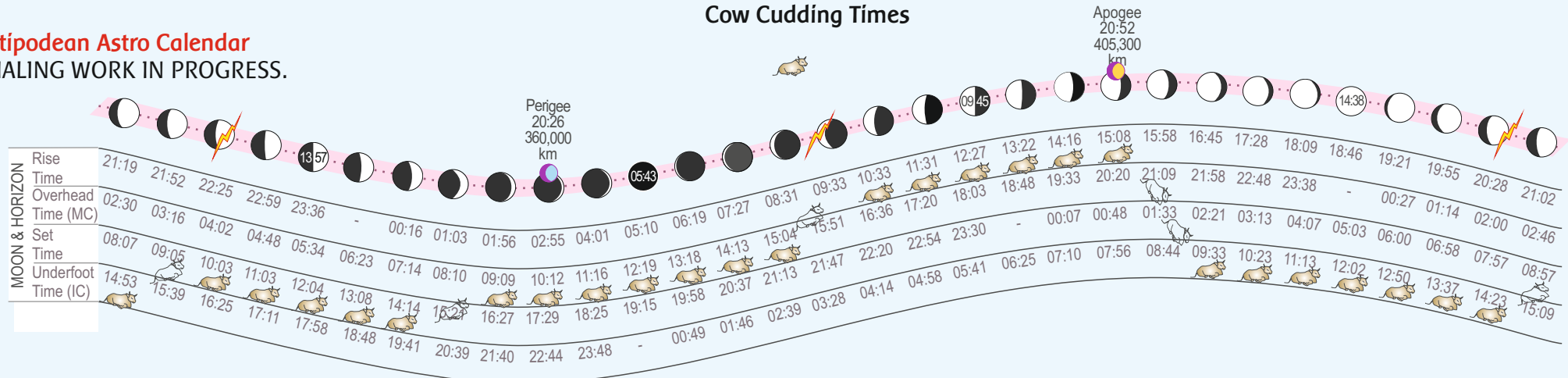


Antipodean Astro Calendar
 TRIALING WORK IN PROGRESS.

Cow Cudding Times



Almost every consecutive day the cow lies down to chew its cud at a different time of day. Notice that they lie down to rest a bit later each day until it gets to mid afternoon before they start cudding. (represented by the brown cow in the Astro Calendar). Then they switch to resting at mid morning and cud approximately 50 minutes later on consecutive days. There is a pattern to this.

I have been aware of the cow's connection to lunar rhythms since 1990 and over that period have intermittently taken records of when cows are lying down and chewing their cuds. For most of that time I have not had cows of my own to observe and so my records are sparse. Nonetheless I have enough data to confidently say that a cow's rhythm of resting strongly correlates to the 4 key horizon aspects of the Moon. I set out a general rule on the next page but am also well aware that some refinements could be added to the fundamental rhythm. I encourage others to take up this research.

The rhythm is primarily a synthesis of aspects of lunar and solar rhythms. There are 4 key aspects in any solar, lunar or planetary day. They relate to the local horizon and are approximately 90 degrees apart. These 4 aspects are when the sun/moon, planet is:-

- 1) RISING,
- 2) CULMINATING HIGH (directly overhead - midheaven or MC),
- 2) SETTING
- 4) CULMINATING LOW (directly underfoot - lowest point below the horizon or IC).

For the Sun these 4 aspects are called:-Sunrise, Midday, Sunset, Midnight.

Each aspect has a unique quality to it. We all know how special Sunrise is and have experienced the 'flatness' of midday. Can we become aware of the qualities of Moonrise and the Moon-mid"day"?

The 4 aspects of the Moon could be joined together to form the arms of a cross. Picture a lunar clock with 4 hands approximately 90 degrees apart.

4 times a day, when the Moon arrives at these key positions I imagine a distinct tone sounding through Nature.

The closest of the 4 lunar arms to midday (Sun key aspect) is when the cows are inclined to chew their cuds.

Example 1:- the Moon is setting at 11:10 and at IC at 17:04.
 Midday is between these two times but closer to Moonset.
 The cows will go down around 11:10.

Example 2:- the Moon is culminating at 8:25 and rising at 14:20.
 Midday is between these two times but closer to the Moon rising.
 The cows will go down around 14:20.

Cud(ding) means cows are actively chewing their cud and usually lying down for 1 to 2 hours. Times given are mid-period.

The rows in the table on the above page conform to the 4 wavy rows in the Antipodean Calendars.



General Rule for Cow Cudding Times



3 days either side of New(No) Moon
 3 days either side of Full Moon
 3 days either side of Waxing Half Moon
 3 days either side of Waning Half Moon

Cows cud when the Moon is at the overhead aspect
 Cows cud when the Moon is at the underfoot aspect
 Cows cud when the Moon is at the rising aspect
 Cows cud when the Moon is at the setting aspect



Transition times (represented by the outlined cow in the Astro Calendar) are when the cows are switching from an afternoon to a morning resting period in response to these sol-lunar rhythms. They could be resting and chewing their cud in the morning, afternoon or even both. The changeover time is not clear. Times are generally between 9am and 3pm and can be later in the summer and around Full Moon.

When the key aspects start to synchronise with the lunar perigee/apogee rhythm then we can have 4 days either side of an aspect and only 2 days either side of an adjacent aspect.

Cows are very strongly connected to lunar rhythms. Bulls and steers are not so strongly connected unless they are running with the herd (with mature cows). Dairy cows having additional rhythms imposed upon them by milking times and so they will not strictly adhere to the times given above. Pet cows are influenced by human rhythms, which can override lunar rhythms. New stock to the property take a few days to become sensitised ("tune in"). I suspect dehorned cattle would be less sensitive to these rhythms but I cannot say that categorically.

Actively working with these rhythms changes our management practices and reduces animal stress e.g. not moving stock at a cudding time and if they are not resting and cudding at the normal time then it could be an indication that their feed is too poor.

Not all animals are connected to lunar rhythms. Some are associated with Mars, others to Jupiter and so on. All are influenced by the Sun as well. Marine organism are even more strongly connected to lunar rhythms than cows.

Observations: When driving around a district at cudding times you can easily notice which stock are stressed by whether they are still grazing when other cows are lying down chewing their cuds. Even dairy cows having to live with milking time rhythms still manage to fit in as best they can these cudding times. In these times of stock stress management it does not make any sense to move cattle when it is their cudding time!

NB I have not managed to investigate what happens at night. However around clear night Full Moons there is a tendency for the cows to get up late in the morning after prolonged night grazing. These findings have not been confirmed by other research as far as I am aware.

Fish are said to feed (and therefore inclined to take bait) when the Moon is at one of these key quarter positions of RISING, OVERHEAD (MC), SETTING and UNDERFOOT (IC), especially when they coincide with dawn or dusk (New and Full Moons). Apparently some fisherman take advantage of fish feeding 2 hours before Moonrise and 1 hour after Moonset. I am not a fisherman.

NB. Stress, Strong weather conditions can also change the rhythm as can planetary aspects. Oestrus cycle length can also be affected by these factors.

Calendar Usage Notes

No adjustment has been made for Daylight Saving.

Sunrise or Moonrise or Marsrise will be at the same time for any observer at the same LATITUDE and ALTITUDE (prominences such as hills and buildings to the east - will of course make a difference).

The Antipodean Astro Calendar rise/set times were based on 34 degrees south (Sydney, Australia).

If your latitude is very different to Sydney latitudes then so will the rising times differ from those given in the calendars.

******* AS WILL THE COW CUDDING TIMES AS I HAVE FORECAST THEM BASED ON SYDNEY'S LATITUDE *******

All other times in the calendar will need changing unless you are on Australian Eastern Standard or Pacific times as they are not based on the Earth's horizon but on aspects to the Sun or stars. If you would like the Sun or Moon rise/set for your locale they can be obtained from:- timeanddate.com