

## DHIA Shows Co. Cows Earn \$20 Over Pa Average

by Everett Newswanger  
Staff Reporter

The average dairy cow in Lancaster County made her owner \$318 above feed cost according to the Red Rose Dairy Herd Improvement Association summary recently released for the 1964 testing year. This was \$35 more than last year and \$20 above the state average.

The 14,440 cows on test (6,000 more than any other county) produced an all-time high average per cow of 12,083 lb. of milk and 482 lb. of fat. This is in contrast to 25 years ago in 1940 when 941 cows on test averaged 9,344 lb. of milk and 370 lb. of fat.

A total of 385 herds exceeded an average production of 400 lbs. of butterfat. Of this total 159 herds were in the 500- to 599 lb. bracket, 19 herds made between 600 and 699 pounds of fat and 1 herd exceeded 700 lb.

A list of the county herds making over 600 pounds of fat follows:

Furry H. Frey, Lancaster, 601

## House Plants Need Humidity, Expert Says

The biggest problem in growing house plants is the extremely low humidity found in most homes during the winter, according to an expert on indoor gardening, Mrs. Ernesta D. Ballard, executive secretary of the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society. She pointed out that it is necessary to increase the relative humidity in the home in order to successfully grow most house plants. One simple way to increase humidity is to place the potted plants on stones in a water-filled tray. She also suggested using a fog sprayer or a home humidifier. Plants such as cacti and other succulents which originate in desert areas are more easily adapted to normal home humidity conditions, she said.

The amount of light a plant receives is also important in its care, and in the winter-time it is almost impossible for a house plant to get too much light. Mrs. Ballard said almost all house plants grow better in a sunny window in the winter.

Temperature, too, is an important factor, Mrs. Ballard said, and most homes are too warm, at least during the day, for really successful house plant culture.

The climate and growing conditions in the area, from which the plants originate give clues to the proper care of plants in the home, she said. For instance, one reason plants native to the north temperate zone are often not satisfactory as house plants is that they need a cold dormant period similar to natural conditions, and this is not usually provided in the home.

Both the soil or growing medium and the container in which the plants are grown must allow adequate drainage, Mrs. Ballard is author of two books on house plants, Mrs. Ballard pointed out. In "Garden in Your Home" and most cases, water must not be allowed to stand in the container.

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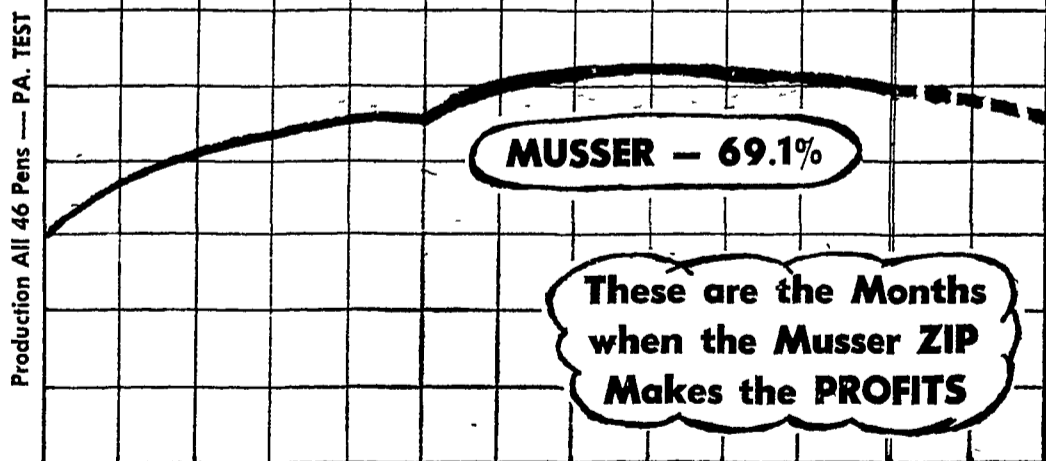
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