

## State's DHIA Celebrates 10th Year; Processed 20 Million Cow Records

A ten-year story of success in recordkeeping. Today, the association has grown into a \$13 million a year business which employs the management practices of big business.

"Since 1957, more than 20 million individual cow records have been processed at the Data Processing Center on the Penn State University campus," Herbert C. Gilmore, extension dairy specialist, said "This in-

cludes the records of about 1,800,000 Commonwealth cows. Today 5,700 herds are enrolled in the testing program."

Gilmore who is in charge of the DHIA program at Penn State, noted the computer system offers many advantages over the old hand-written records program. The same number of supervisors handle more cow records, human errors are eliminated, reports are more legible, and additional data is provided to the dairyman.

Dairyman use the data to de-

### ● Potato Research

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toes were planted last April in each field. One plot had had corn as the previous crop, and the other had been preceded by pasture.

side which sites to use in breeding programs, unprofitable cows to cull from the herd, and those cows that should be kept for raising herd replacements, the official said. In addition, extension specialists use DHIA data in many analysis studies in an effort to determine which management, feeding, and breeding practices are the most profitable.

In explaining how the recordkeeping system operates, Gilmore said DHIA supervisors, who visit each herd once a month, weigh and sample the milk from each cow. A report of this data is forwarded to the Penn State Dairy Extension Office where it is checked for accuracy and completeness. Data is then sent to the Data Processing Center where it is punched on cards and then transferred to magnetic tape. Using magnetic tape, the data is calculated and reports are printed.

"Pennsylvania's DHIA production average ten years ago was 9,529 pounds of milk and 488 pounds of butterfat. Today it is 12,524 pounds of milk and 488 pounds of butterfat," he said.

The testing program is under the general supervision of the Cooperative Extension Service. In addition to Gilmore, another extension dairy specialist, D. N. Putnam, is responsible for processing phases, form design and operational procedures.

Two fieldmen, Carl Hollinger and Earl Baum, are employed by the association to work with supervisors in the field. Two other DHIA employees, Wilmer Geist and Earl Johnson, are responsible for checking all reports and maintaining an inventory of all data sent to dairymen.

The long range research program had two primary objectives: 1) to determine the effects of different rates of fertilization on the processing quality of potatoes, and 2) to determine whether different varieties have distinct fertilizer requirements. As a side experiment, it was hoped to get an indication whether the source of potash had any effect on chipping quality of potatoes.

**RESULTS**  
Harrington refused to label his findings in this 115 year study as results, but said they were strong suggestions. They will become results after this study has been carried on for a few years, he said.

He presented the findings on five commercial varieties in the Lancaster County trial — Norland, Puncos, Katahdin, Kennebec, and Sebago. These were all comparable from a yield and chipping quality point of view, he explained.

**FERTILIZER**  
As a preliminary conclusion, Harrington reported that the fertilizer trials in which nitrogen and potassium were varied while phosphorus was held constant, indicated that "you could have put on 150 pounds of nitrogen and forgot about everything else." The yields increased as nitrogen amounts were increased, up to 150 pounds. This also pointed up the effects of residual fertilization and the high state of fertility of most of the state's potato fields, he noted.

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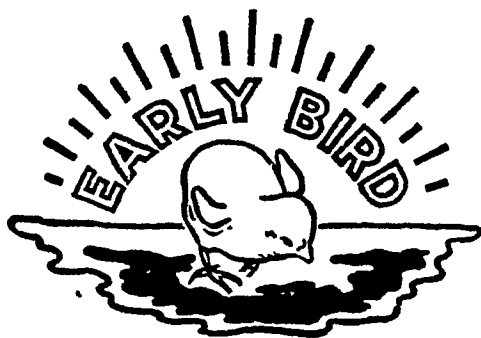
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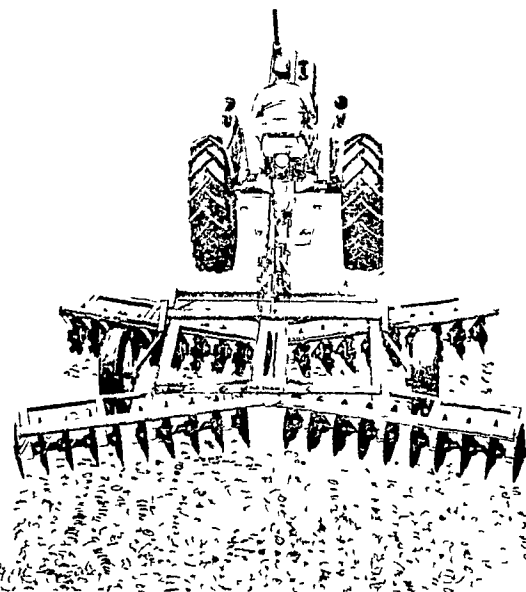
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