

Income Must Exceed Twice Feed Cost

Dairyman taking part in Standard Plan recordkeeping within the Dairy Herd Improvement Association (DHIA) grossed an average of \$233 more per cow than non-participants, summaries for 1966 show.

Participants produced an average of 12,307 pounds of milk per cow, or 57 percent more than nonparticipants. Average production in DHIA herds was up 180 pounds from the previous year, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture data.

Dr. R. Dean Plowman, a dairy scientist in USDA's Agricultural Research Service, directs the computer-run program.

Dr. Plowman says that a common rule in the dairy business holds that a producer profits only if his income exceeds twice his feed cost. On that basis, 99 percent of the participants in the DHIA Standard Plan made a profit in 1966, but almost half of the nonparticipants either lost money or barely broke even.

Nationwide, in 1966, the average participating farmer fed 4,700 pounds of concentrates, 11,300 pounds of silage or succulent forage, and 3,600 pounds of hay or dried forage at an average feed cost of about \$265. Gross income per cow was estimated at \$631 or \$366 above feed costs.

Participating dairymen also feed and manage their cows more efficiently, Dr. Plowman says, and DHIA records enable them to identify cows that should be culled to keep the business profitable.

Advances were made in 1966 by participants in the Owner-Sampler Plan, a more limited DHIA recordkeeping program in which cooperators take their own milk samples for testing instead of using DHIA specialists. About 576,000 Owner-Sampler cows averaged 11,607 pounds of milk in 1966, an increase of 135 pounds over the previous year.

75 Farmers Attend Curtiss Bull Meeting

A group of 75 farmers attended the Curtiss Breeding Service meeting at Lafayette Fire Hall Thursday evening. Featured speaker was Morris Ewing, Director of Statistical Analysis for the organization. He gave a slide presentation on Curtiss Bulls.

Thomas Kelly, District Manager, also spoke on 'The Curtiss Complete Cow' Program.

Refreshments were served following the meeting.

COUNTRY CHUCKLE

When young Billy Brown found a baby rabbit in the newly mowed alfalfa field, he caught it and aspired to raise it for a pet. But the little bunny didn't thrive, so when the veterinarian came to examine some of his dad's cows, young Billy seized the opportunity to get some advice about his rabbit's condition.

"What do you feed it?" the vet asked.

"Goat's milk," Billy replied. "Billy, I thought you watched TV," the vet mused, "and you'd know better than to use that greasy kid stuff on your hare!"

About 95 percent of the dry weight of plants consists of elements drawn directly from the air — carbon, oxygen, or hydrogen.

HOW IS GREEN PASTURES STEER CONCENTRATE DOING?



ASK MR. DAVE GARBER, RD #1, MARIETTA, PA.

Here is His Record: Started 115 Steers September 10, 1966
Average starting weight per steer — 472.47 lbs.
Total — 54,347 lbs.

Cattle Sold:—

January 3, 1967	1 cull	610 lbs.
January 18, 1967	1 steer	1,150 lbs.
February 9, 1967	20 steers	22,640 lbs.
March 2, 1967	13 steers	14,780 lbs.
March 22, 1967	30 steers	33,160 lbs.
April 26, 1967	50 steers	54,147 lbs.

Total Weight Sold 126,487 lbs.

GAIN	54,347 lbs.
AVERAGE DAYS ON FEED	196 Days
AVERAGE GAIN PER STEER	473 lbs.
GAIN PER HEAD PER DAY	2.413 lbs.

Feeding Program and Feed Used: -

Wormed September 25 with Thiabendazole
Used 8 tons hay

60 tons ear corn — green weight
400 bushels ear corn dry
4 tons stonemeal

50 feet silage settled in 20' by 60' silo, fine cut
Mineral Salt force fed
A - D and E Vitamins since December 20th

Concentrate:—

Green Pastures No. 604, 1 lb. per head per day



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