

Changes In Dairy Herd Production Testing Under Study At Penn State

Preliminary milk production testing investigations conducted by dairy officials at The Pennsylvania State University show that it may be just as practical to sample and weigh a cow's production once a month as it is to use the existing plan of two consecutive milkings.

This was pointed out this week by Dexter N. Putnam, Penn State Extension dairy specialist, at the annual meeting of the American Dairy Science Association at Ohio State University.

Putnam, who assists with the supervision of the Pennsylvania Dairy Herd Improvement Association testing program, said a comprehensive study was conducted to find out if it is feasible to reduce the number of test periods and still maintain a high level of accuracy. If this can be done, he added, dairymen's costs could be reduced and participation in a testing program increased.

"To evaluate the accuracy of testing plans, the lactation records of 200 cows in the Penn State herd were calculated by

using five different systems. These were then compared to actual milk production obtained by weighing milk at each milking," the dairy specialist pointed out.

The plans, he said, were (1) sampling two consecutive milkings in the middle of each month; (2) sampling the evening milk in the middle of even numbered months and the morning milking in the middle of odd numbered months; (3) plan two in reverse; (4) sampling two consecutive milkings bi-monthly in the middle of even numbered months; (5) sampling two consecutive milkings bi-monthly in the middle of odd numbered months.

"Analysis of data showed there is no significant statistical difference between any of the five plans," the dairy specialist explained. "Some plans, however, had less variation from actual production than did others."

In actual field operations, Putnam said it is more feasible for the supervisor to visit each

C. Harold Gable And Sons Wins Top Ayrshire Award

For distinguished success as a breeder of registered Ayrshire dairy cattle, C. Harold Gable & Son, owners of Conebella Farm, Elverson, Pa., were presented the 'Constructive Breeder Award' by the Ayrshire Breeders' Association, Brandon, Vt., as it was announced at the 93rd

Annual Awards Banquet held recently at the Thruway Motor Inn, Albany, N.Y. The presentations were made by President Phil Schuyler and David Gibson Jr., Executive Secretary.

"This was the tenth award to be won by Mr. Gable & Son and in order to qualify for this honor, one of the most coveted prizes in dairy cattle circles, it is necessary for the herd to excel in both milk production and breed type. Only animals bred through planned matings by the herd owner are considered for this award.

On strictly twice-a-day milking schedule for 305 days, the cows bred by the CBA winner made an annual production average of 13025 lbs. of milk and 567 lbs. of butterfat, M. E. The herd has a type classification average score of .858 and 100 percent of the entire herd was bred by Conebella Farm.

Of the thousands of dairy herds in the United States only 83 herds qualified for this high honor in purebred dairy cattle achievement. Visitors are always welcome to visit this outstanding herd.

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LOCAL COWS RECEIVE LACTATION CREDITS

A report of milk production levels attained by dairy cows in area herds has been received from Holstein-Friesian Association of America. The actual food production output, under official testing rules, by these local Registered Holsteins is:

Brook-Vil Paige Patsy Ivanhoe 5848961, a four-year-old owned by Isaac M. Brubaker, Lititz, produced 16,150 lbs. of milk and 688 lbs. of butterfat in 305 days.

Siemers Supreme Decca 5709-334, a four-year-old owned by Robert C. Groff, Quarryville, produced 20,950 lbs. of milk and 698 lbs. of butterfat in 305 days.

These new production figures may be compared to the estimated annual output of 8,513 lbs. of milk and 315 lbs. of butterfat by the average U.S. dairy cow, notes the national Holstein Association.

Pennsylvania State University supervised the sampling, weighing and testing operations in cooperation with the Holstein organization's herd and breed improvement programs.

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