

Red Rose DHIA Directors Hold Meeting

The Lancaster County DHIA discussed several matters relating to the upcoming change-over to computerized milk testing at Penn State by April 1.

On the question of hand testing owner-sampler, the board approved its continuation. Some 54 herds in the County use this procedure.

Most of the discussion concerned what to do with the sul-

furic acid which is involved in this type of testing. It was noted that one of the major reasons for switching over to the central lab at Penn State was to get rid of the storage and handling problems and dangers connected with sulfuric acid.

Wilbur Houser, supervisor of the 15 testers in Lancaster County, pointed out that since most farmers will be going to

the central lab system one of the key problems will be that of getting the acid in small quantities for those who want to continue using it.

After discussing the situation at length, the board decided to continue the hand owner-sampler but authorized a seven cent per cow fee increase, which will go entirely to testers. But the provision was also made that the testers who use the system will have to provide their own supply of acid; Houser previously had been responsible for buying and storing the acid.

It was noted that several testers in the County do not have any hand owner-sampler herds, while four or five others have anywhere from six to 16 of these herds.

The seven cent increase for hand owner-sampler corresponds to an identical seven cent increase previously adopted for the other types of service available through DHIA, including the IBM owner-sampler, DHIA once a day, and DHIA twice a day.

In other action the board authorized Houser to proceed as he feels best with purchase of some new milk metering equipment which is needed. The item had been costing about \$200 but Houser reported a new product, which appears to be equally acceptable, is now available at about \$95.

The board also agreed to send all DHIA members a letter officially notifying them of the new procedure using Penn State testing equipment effective April 1.

At least two testers have already placed their herds on the Penn State system, it was reported.

The board also voted to continue what was described as a test for density of milk in a test using 10 beads which rise or settle depending on the milk's density. While only about six to eight Lancaster County milk



Officers elected by the Red Rose DHIA at a meeting Tuesday night at the Farm and Home Center are: left to right, front, Bruce Hershey, Manheim RD3, secretary; Donald Eby, Gordonville RD1, president; standing, Robert L. Kauffman, Jr., Peach Bottom, vice president; and Jacob Houser, Lampeter, treasurer.

producers currently are on the program, it was decided to retain the test.

Robert Hess, a local representative on the state DHIA board, reported that as of January 91,

085 head of cattle state-wide were on the new Penn State system. This includes 4,035 from Lancaster County. The figure has been rising steadily in recent months. About 125,000 head a month is needed to make the new system work and the state hopes to have 200,000 head by June, Hess said.

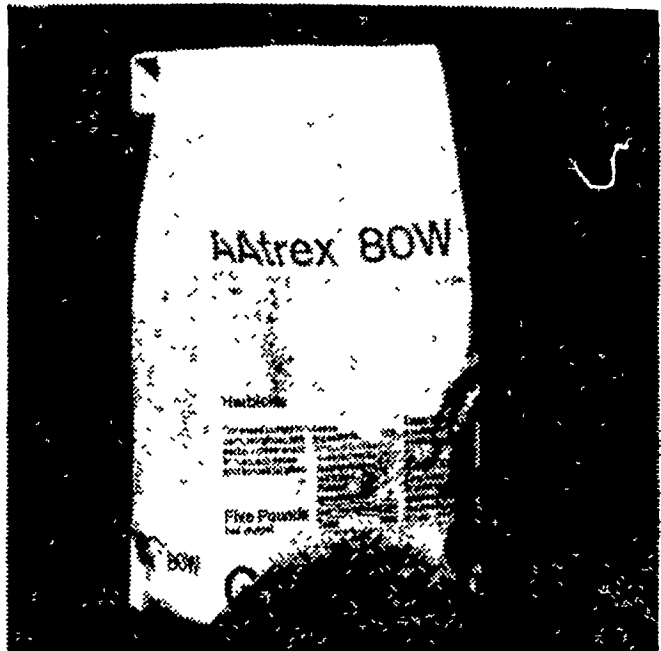
Hess said the new Milk-O-Tester used at Penn State will be more accurate than the present Babcock system and he thinks the Milk-O-Tester eventually will be the basis for purchasing milk.

The DHIA board also approved a change in vacation policy for testers to give them more leeway when they can take their vacations. Previously they had been restricted to May, June and July. The new policy says they can take their vacation any time except during the last month of the year or during the last month of their employment.

This affects the herd owner only to the extent that during his tester's vacation his herd will be "averaged" during the vacation, except that the owner can have another tester come in by paying double the usual rate. The herd is averaged a maximum of only once every two years.

A district DHIA meeting for Northampton County was announced for March 4. A calload of local DHIA members are expected to attend.

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