

DHIA Tests Show High Milk, Fat Levels

Cows enrolled in the Pennsylvania Dairy Herd Improvement Association testing program produced an average of 12,675 pounds of milk per cow, according to figures released by The Pennsylvania State University Department of Dairy Science.

Data, which were summarized by computers, reveal that the 185,779 cows on test had an average production of 488 pounds of butterfat. Six herds produced over 19,000 pounds of milk.

"Pennsylvania's DHIA production average 16 years ago was 9,259 pounds of milk and 376 pounds of butterfat," said Herbert C. Gilmore, Penn State Extension dairy specialist. "This year 12 herds produced more than 700 pounds of butterfat and 313 herds topped the 600-pound mark."

For the second straight year, the 30-cow Holstein herd owned by Thomas R. Williams, of Uniondale, Susquehanna County, captured high state milk production honors with an average of 21,945 pounds per cow. Gladell Farm, of Millheim, Centre County, with a 39-cow Holstein herd,

produced an average of 839 pounds of butterfat, also highest in the state.

Other top producing herds by breeds are: Ayrshire, Ardrossan Farms, of Villanova, Chester County, 13,392 pounds milk and 576 pounds of butterfat; Guernsey, Herbert R. Guyer, of Derry, Westmoreland County, 14,429 milk and 702 fat; Jersey, Mrs. Ross Gale, of Yardley, Bucks County, 10,973 milk and 575 fat; and Brown Swiss, A. L. Morrison, Jr., of West Alexander, Washington County, 14,025 milk and 590 fat.

Owners of individual cows with the highest butterfat production are: Ayrshire, Ardrossan Farms, 820 fat and 17,826 milk; Guernsey, Pen Col Farms, of Millville, Columbia County, 924 fat and 21,028 milk; Holstein, Gladell Farm, 1,683 fat and 32,247 milk; Jersey, Clyde and Robert Robison, of Coal Center, Washington County, 916 fat and 16,389 milk; Brown Swiss, Delaware Valley College, of Doylestown, Bucks County, 888 fat and 17,633 milk; and Milking Shorthorn, Jonas O. Sensening, of Holtwood, Lancaster County, 583 fat and 13,732 milk.

Baling Wire, Fertilizer Supplies 'Tight'

Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz urged the Cost of Living Council to give favorable consideration to granting immediate price relief to manufacturers of baling wire and other steel products used in farming. The Secretary also reported some improvement in the fertilizer supply situation.

"President Nixon and Vice President Ford both have expressed grave concern that potential shortages of baling wire and fertilizer, if not forestalled, could severely hamper the efforts of our farmers to achieve all-out farm production in 1974," the Secretary reported.

"The baling wire situation is extremely tight. Our Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service personnel have been monitoring the situation closely for some time. At current controlled price levels manufacturers' margins are so low that they are not producing. The Cost of Living Council reports it has this situation under current review.

"That is why I have urged the Cost of Living Council to

grant price relief on steel products used by farmers, and to encourage baling wire producers to step-up production for domestic use to the maximum extent feasible if price relief is granted.

"I am directing the Department of Agriculture to intensify its efforts to monitor the baling wire situation. Department of Agriculture personnel will continue efforts to work with the steel industry, through the Commerce Department, to assure that every possible step is taken to produce the baling wire farmers will need in 1974.

"The fertilizer supply situation has improved since controls on domestic fertilizer prices were lifted last Oct. 25.

"At that time fertilizer manufacturers agreed to divert to domestic markets 1.5 million tons of fertilizer which had been scheduled for export, to do what they could to keep marginal plants in production and open closed plants, and to speed up completion of fertilizer plants under construction.

"I am pleased to report some progress has been made in increasing available fertilizer tonnage. We have some indication that fertilizer sales to farmers during the fall of 1973 were substantially above sales for the same period in 1972.

"Because of continuing strong demand, the supply situation for nitrogen and phosphate fertilizers will remain extremely tight. We shall continue to monitor it very closely to do everything we possibly can to improve the fertilizer supply situation for the 1974 crop."

Crop Oats Loan Rates Rise 2-cents In Pa.

Support loan rates at the county level for 1974-crop oats will be adjusted by reductions of one cent in some areas to increases of one to four cents in others, the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced. Adjustments are reviewed annually to improve loan rate relationships with historical cash oats prices received by farmers. County loan rates are based on an unchanged national average support of 54 cents per bushel which was announced last Aug. 29 by USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

The one cent per bushel reduction in loan rates applies to all counties in North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota and in neighboring counties in Montana, Nebraska, Iowa and Wisconsin. Loan rates are increased one cent in Oklahoma, one to two cents in Indiana, two cents in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Oregon, three cents in California and four cents in Texas. Other areas remain unchanged from 1973.

Premiums and discounts for grade and quality used to determine individual producers' support loan rates are unchanged from the 1973 program. Premiums are one cent per bushel for Grade No. 2 or better, one

cent for heavy test weight and two cents for extra heavy test weight. The discount for badly stained or materially weathered No. 4 oats is seven cents per bushel; on the factor of test weight, it is three cents per bushel. Discount for garlicky oats is three cents per bushel.

Support will be carried out through loans on oats stored on farms or in elevators, and by purchases.

Copies of county rates are being sent to state Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) offices. Copies also are available in the Grain Division, ASCS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. D. 20250.

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