

Adams Co. DHIA

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The featured speaker for the evening was William Heald the new director of the State DHIA Program at Penn State. Heald, a former Chester County native, comes to State College from The Virginia Polytechnical Institute where he completed his graduate degree studies, taught, and did research for a number of years.

He is a lactation physiologist specializing in mastitis. He outlined to the group where the state's DHIA program has been and new innovative changes which need to take place to keep the program progressive.

Heald stated that expansion of the State testing facilities and the programs provided through DHIA are vital. This has included moving the program into a new testing facility at Penn State and purchasing new testing machines to replace outdated models. The new machines will test for both butterfat and protein.

Heald sees protein testing as the trend of the future already being in demand by producers, processors, and the A.I. industry. He sees this as DHIA's chance to lead the industry.

"After all, protein is what we're really selling. With only 40 percent of the milk produced going for fluid

consumption, component pricing is coming. No one wants to pay to have water hauled over the roads," he said.

The hardware involved in the testing program is being incorporated to be more efficient both in time and operating costs. Computers in the lab are now being "married" so that they are incorporated into one complex computer, eliminating the need for extra technicians.

Heald said he would like to purchase \$100,000 of the hardware necessary for the DHI to do its own data entry work. DHI presently rents computer space from the University. Dr. Heald agrees that this looks like a large sum, but in five years the investment could return that value three times in the savings on rented computer time and space. "Through automation DHI hopes to serve you better, faster, and more efficiently," he said.

Heald noted that current trends have shown that AM-PM testing is now DHI's most popular program. With this program more herds can be tested with the present number of supervisors and studies have shown that it is the second most accurate of the testing programs preceded only by the owner-sampler program. Heald cautions,



Top herd awards went to: from left, Stanley Weimer, R2, New Oxford, partner in Weim-Sharr Farms, third high herd with 19,424 lbs. of milk, 727 lbs. butterfat on 64 cows; Leroy Deputy, R1, East Berlin, second high herd with 21,223 lbs. of milk, 782 lbs. of butterfat on


122 cows; Claude Holmes, R1, Hanover, partner in Noel and Holmes, top high herd with 20,458 lbs. of milk, 798 lbs. of butterfat on 56 cows. Deputy was also honored for the high cows milk production of 33,198 lbs. in a 305-day lactation.

though, that any milk testing program is only what the dairyman makes of it in terms of accuracy and effectiveness as a management tool.

He strongly encouraged the dairymen present to make use of the somatic cell count program. "The lower the somatic cell count, the higher the production.

Research has found that the greatest loss of production is at the level of 100,000 to 200,000.

"That would show up as a '1' on (Turn to Page D11)



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