

NDHIA Adopts Policy For BST Herds

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Duane Green, president of the Holstein Friesian Association of America, who was in the audience Thursday afternoon, was requested to comment on the resolution.

Green explained that the colored breed proofs are computed by the United States Department of Agriculture. The HFAA, however, computes the Holstein sire proofs at the University of Wisconsin at great expense and time to the Association. To recoup the costs, he explained, the Association needs to sell the information.

A resolution to dissolve the National DHIA legal fund was defeated. The resolution proposed to transfer all funds remaining in the account to the Association's research fund. It proposed continuing the 1 cent per cow assessment and applying the income to the research fund.

Delegates defeated a resolution which proposed consolidation of the business meetings at the National DHIA convention into consecutive days to allow efficiency and greater participation at lower costs.

Carried unanimously by the delegates was a resolution to maintain a dynamic policy board.

Passed by standing acclamation were resolutions to thank the host state, Pennsylvania, and honor retiring board of director members.

Delegates passed a by-law change which will elect and nominate directors on a regional basis. Previously, the regional caucuses nominated directors and the directors were then elected by the general delegate body at the national convention. The change passed by a vote of 63 to 35 with one abstention.

Policy Board

Long, chairman of the NCHIP Policy Board, reported that the board "took initial steps to support the development of somatic cell sire summaries," at the board's December 1986 meeting.

In other action at the December meeting, Long explained, that the board:

- Took a preliminary step to develop 24-hour factors for milking intervals greater than eight hours and less than 12 hours.
- Endorsed the optional use of milk weights to the nearest pound in DHIA as opposed to the half-pounds increments currently in use.
- Started a new round of solicitations to support the DHIA research fund.
- Approved 1987 priorities for research projects, and endorsed the concept of educational project funding.
- Approved NDHIA-developed standards for quality certification in 1988.
- Approved an evaluation protocol developed by NDHIA for automatic electronic identification systems.
- Granted DHIA approval to the Waikato large flask.

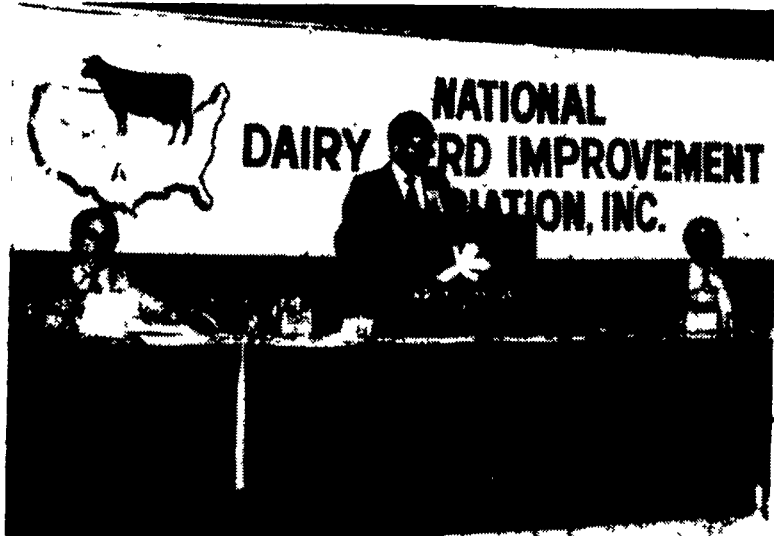
Long said the board endorsed a policy concerning research herds using bovine somatotropin. The policy requires written notification from herd participating in research by April 1, 1987 or within 30 of the start of the participation.

Companies researching BST are requested to identify herds and cows involved so the NCHIP records can be studied.

The policy board also recommended handling the records of cows on BST the same as records of other cows until the policy board deems special handling of these records necessary.

Committee Reports

Robert Kindig, chairman of the New Generation Committee and president of the Pennsylvania DHIA, reported the committee established five general areas for



Edwin Fry, at podium, conducted roll call of delegate prior to the start of the business session of the NDHIA convention. Seated to the left is Richard Sechrist. Velmar Green is to the right of the podium.

the NDHIA to work on to meet long-range plans.

The first area concerned the long-term direction of the DHIA system, he said, and where the program will be in five to 10 years.

"Also, the management information needs of the dairymen to maintain profitability into the 21st century," Kindig stated, must be accessed.

He listed the third area as: "The DHIA organizational structure necessary to provide these needs and these services in the future at

all levels."

NHDIA needs to look at the question of the role of the NDHIA in this total system, he added.

The final area of consideration concerns the specific steps and actions necessary for NDHIA to ensure that dairymen will be profitable and that the system will survive into the next generation, Kindig reported.

He identified two main areas of concern for the future: sustaining state lines for DHIA and competition to DHIA services.

Speakers Cite Changes, Challenges For Dairy's Future

BY MARTHA J. GEHRINGER

PHILADELPHIA — Changes and challenges were catchwords for the general session of the annual meeting for the National Dairy Herd Improvement Convention here at the Adams Mark Hotel on Tuesday afternoon.

"We have some real challenges in agriculture. We need to determine what and how the people we sell to want the product," keynote speaker James Boyle said. The deputy assistant secretary of government and department affairs for the United States Department of Agriculture stated, "If we are to enter the world market and be competitive, we must determine what the market wants and produce it."

U.S. farmers have had the tendency to produce what they want and expect someone to buy it, he explained. Producers can no longer afford to continue this practice, Boyle noted. "We are not in a position as we once thought — we aren't feeding the world as we did in the '30s," he explained.

Other countries have become self-sufficient in food production primarily due to their producers' adoption of technology, Boyle said.

New product research has benefitted producers in three prime areas: corn, wheat and dairy products. Researchers have developed a biodegradable plastic from corn, he noted.

"We need to find new uses for our products. We are down-sizing agriculture. This is not healthy in the long run," Boyle said.

"I think the future for American agriculture can be extremely optimistic. It won't be like 10 to 20 years ago. It's going to be a changed agriculture."

If we are to meet the challenges of the future we must accept change, Boyle stressed. "We must move ahead aggressively, optimistically and with purpose," he added.

"We can produce ourselves back into problems at anytime," he cautioned. He added, the challenge is to move on and control our destiny.

Boyle replaced E. de la Garza, chairman of the House of Representatives Agriculture Committee, on the program. Garza

was unable to get out of a meeting in Washington but briefed Boyle on several topics.

Speaking on behalf of Garza, Boyle told the group that the 1985 Farm Bill is working and is beginning to move product onto the world market. He asked the farmers to be patient and let the Bill work.

"We are beginning to turn the corner on the export market," he said. "We are just now beginning to see the impact of the '85 Farm Bill."

The Dairy Termination Program has been successful in removing product from the market, Boyle noted. He cited two indications of the success: a lower ratio of heifers per hundred cows and the maintenance of milk price over the support price.

"It's in your hands. What happens to the dairy industry depends on what you do with production," Boyle said.

DHIA's Changes and Challenges

Richard Sechrist, NDHIA executive secretary, explained that DHIA needs to react to technology by adapting and assimilating it the benefit of the membership. Technology is a "stepping stone to the new style of DHIA which will probably be in place in the year 2000."

In the year 2000 producers can expect a changed DHIA structure



President Donald Long reported on the decisions of the policy board. Seated from the left are Richard Sechrist and Velmar Green.

The committee reached three general concepts. They are: Competition for records processing and testing could strengthen the program but it could also have short-term, traumatic effects, Kindig explained.

"Conceptually, we believe that the state line barriers should be diminished to some extent to encourage some competition among DHIA's and DRPCs. But the details of how something like this might be implemented, we had some reservations," he said.

Thirdly, the committee endorses private computer programs be integrated into the DHIA system, Kindig added.

Tom Aitchison, chairman of the

DHIA research fund, reported the approval for 10 research projects which represent a cross-section of concern for dairymen. The projects focus on factors influencing the milk composition of samples, somatic cell counts, milk yield, and testing procedures.

The 1986 annual report showed a net savings for the national organization of \$625 compared to \$34,845 in 1985. Herds in all testing programs of NCDHIP totaled 62,202 with 4.7 million cows as of Jan. 1, 1986. This accounted for 42 percent of the herds in 49 state units, including Puerto Rico.

The 1988 NDHIA convention will be held in Indianapolis, Ind., March 14 to 17.



James Boyle, seated, right, was the keynote speaker at Tuesday's annual meeting general session. Clyde Robinson, at podium, state director from Pennsylvania DHIA, welcomed the group to Pennsylvania. Also pictured is Richard Sechrist, executive secretary of the National Dairy Herd Improvement Association.

and a change in the role of the DHIA supervisors, Sechrist explained. Preparation for the year 2000 needs to begin at the farm level by continuing to do what makes sense.

He encouraged a moderate pace for the adaptation of technology. Over reaction to technology can deter the logical progress of technology; too slow of a reaction can hamper or destroy

technological advancements.

A panel discussion by individuals from data processing and records centers showed the centers are gearing to the challenges and changes of the future by listening to the producers. The individuals cited a need to continue programs geared for the masses. They listed a need to develop programs which will help dairymen operate efficiently and profitably.

\$40,000 Available For Local Dairy Promotions

HARRISBURG — Applications for local dairy promotion funds are now being accepted for the July-December, 1987 period, it has been announced by Board Chairman Jim Harteis of the Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program.

The Ebensburg dairymen reported this week that \$40,000 will be available to dairy oriented groups on a 50-50 matching basis. Application deadline is April 30.

"Dairy promotion doesn't begin or end with June Dairy Month," Harteis emphasized. "We're anxious to see more local promotions all during the year." Ice cream carried the day for

local promoters during the last half of 1986, with giant ice cream sundaes and banana splits attention getters in Blair, Lebanon, Berks and Warren counties. In Reading, citizens were treated to an ice cream eating contest while in Jefferson County dairy promoters gave away a free ice cream party.

Promoter grants are limited to milk producer organizations, or to local, non-profit dairy promotion committees supervised by dairymen, Harteis said.

Matching funds may be used to purchase milk shake machines and

other equipment, he added, but profits from such investments must be used for future dairy promotions.

Local promotion groups have been advised of the April deadline.

Harteis recommended that others interested in local dairy promotions call Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program's Cindy Weimer immediately at 717-787-6903 for complete guidelines and application forms. Or write Weimer at Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program, 2301 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101-9408.