

FOCUS

Pennsylvania
Dairy Herd
Improvement Association

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DHIA Core Parameters Are Essential To Good Management

“TO THE CORE”

Rolling Herd Average Less than 14,000 (971 Herds)
Percentage of Cows Leaving Herds per Year: 16.2%

PA DHIA has a vision to provide accurate and usable management information pertinent to the needs of its members. With this in mind, it is natural that we incorporate the promotion, use, and refinement of the ten sets of “core parameters” developed over a two-year period by ten subcommittees of extension specialists.

These committees, representing various regions of the United States, have prepared fact sheets describing the fundamental core parameters deemed necessary for the elementary use of DHIA records in the following areas:

(Turn to Page A27)

Test	Lactation 1					Lactation 2					Lactation >2				
	Milk	Fat	Pro	Days	SCC	Milk	Fat	Pro	Days	SCC	Milk	Fat	Pro	Days	SCC
	+37	+3	+2	122	3.1	-39	0	0	118	3.3	-251	-7	-6	123	4.1
	Milk	Fat	Pro	F\$/CWT	SCC	Milk	Fat	Pro	F\$/CWT	SCC	Milk	Fat	Pro	F\$/CWT	SCC
1	42.1	3.8	3.1	5.67	294	54.0	3.9	3.2	4.78	317	57.4	3.9	3.1	4.61	547
2	43.2	3.6	3.0	5.63	235	53.7	3.7	3.0	4.92	295	57.9	3.6	2.9	4.70	531
3	41.6	3.7	3.1	5.71	243	50.3	3.7	3.1	5.11	330	54.0	3.6	3.0	4.94	566
4	39.6	3.8	3.1	5.88	238	46.7	3.7	3.2	5.27	353	50.1	3.7	3.1	5.16	581
5	37.7	3.8	3.2	5.92	271	43.5	3.8	3.2	5.49	362	46.2	3.7	3.2	5.39	592
6	35.8	3.9	3.2	6.03	281	40.2	3.9	3.3	5.69	392	42.3	3.8	3.2	5.58	615
7	34.0	3.9	3.3	6.18	280	36.5	3.9	3.3	5.98	415	38.3	3.8	3.3	5.88	666
8	31.6	4.0	3.3	6.46	298	32.4	4.0	3.4	6.39	462	33.7	3.9	3.3	6.32	667
9	28.5	4.1	3.4	6.78	320	27.6	4.1	3.5	7.05	470	28.2	3.9	3.4	7.06	707
10	24.3	4.1	3.5	7.43	320	22.1	4.1	3.5	8.08	484	22.7	4.0	3.5	7.96	755
11	20.5	4.2	3.5	8.09	344	18.3	4.2	3.6	8.91	538	18.3	4.0	3.5	9.05	795
12	16.3	4.2	3.6	9.56	407	14.3	4.1	3.6	10.79	595	13.4	4.0	3.5	11.33	872

Don't Plan Too Much For One Day

By Walter Wurster
Chester Co. Extension
Dairy Agent

I will approach this column from a little different perspective than most dairy Extension Agents. I have been a dairy farmer for more than 30 years and only recently joined the extension staff.

My thoughts center on how today's dairyman can plan his schedule considering all the problems he must solve on a day-to-day basis.

Do people, especially your wife, tell you that you plan to do too much in one day? Most successful businessmen fall into this category, but the key is not to carry it to extremes which may cause you to lose your help.

My sons remind me of a day several years ago which is referred to in our family as “Black Monday”. The time of the year was June. (I believe they made June Dairy Month because that is one of the busiest months for dairy farmers in the whole year.) Anyway, I “planned” to keep everybody busy by mowing hay, raking hay, baling hay, combining barley and, of course, milking cows.

Well, the mowing and raking went OK, but baling and combining became a problem, especially when the radiator on the tractor pulling the baler sprung a large leak, spraying me with water and antifreeze. About the same time, my son said they couldn't get all the barley in the old wooden bin in the barn.

“Of course it will fit,” I said and proceeded to crawl into the bin to level it off. Yes, it was full, but I scrambled around trying to get more in, realizing we were already late for milking.

About the time I was getting buried in barley, someone let a burlap bag go up the elevator and jam everything. I came storming out of the bin probably looking like Darth Vader, being completely black from barley dust and shouting my frustration. We laugh about it today but, at the time, everyone was quite upset. Good thing they were my sons and not old enough to leave home yet or I might have lost my workforce.

The moral of this story is that I tried to do too much in one day.

How do you keep from having too many days like this each year? Take the time at least twice a week and put down on paper what you want to accomplish. Since we have to continually struggle with the weather, have a list of rainy day jobs for your help to work on even if you are not around.

Make sure your help knows each day what is planned for that day. It makes them feel more a part of the operation and prevents disagreements as the day wears on and everyone gets tired.

Remember, no matter how well you plan, things go wrong -- machines break, cows have trouble calving, and heifers do get out of the pasture. Therefore, your plans should have priorities

(Turn to Page A27)

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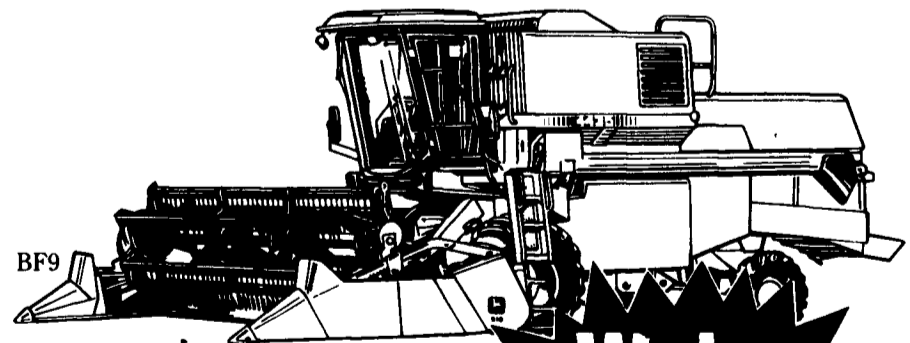
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