

FOCUS

Pennsylvania
Dairy Herd
Improvement Association

Call 1-800-DHI-TEST for service or information.

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With dairies looking for milk and paying record prices, this is not the time for lost production due to herd health problems. What can be done to keep the herd healthy and economically productive?

To get started, let me suggest that you become familiar with the Pennsylvania Dairy Health and Biosecurity Manual which has been prepared by Dr. Larry J Hutchinson, D.V.M., extension veterinarian and his staff at the Pennsylvania State University. Developed in support of a state-wide extension program on the health and biosecurity of animal enterprises, this handy reference manual provides a check-list of practices which, when customized by you and your veterinarian, can become the health management plan for your herd.

Focusing on the modern concept of production medicine, the manual is organized into eight sections. The first is a calendar of health/biosecurity practices for protecting the herd from the entry of new diseases and to minimize the spread of diseases within the herd. The remainder of the manual is a series of information sheets explaining the whys and hows of the checklist practices.

Here is a brief overview of the contents:

- **Disease Control**—Beginning with control of new animals entering the herd, you are reminded to obtain health certificates, to isolate new animals for a minimum of 21 days, and to test them for Brucella, tuberculosis, and for certain low prevalence diseases that are absent or controlled in your herd such as Johne's, Bovine Leukosis and certain forms of mastitis.
- **The Calf and Heifer Calendar**—Lists recommended practices to be performed at birth and at different intervals through preparation for freshening at 24 months. These include vaccinations, dehorning, and checking for normal weight gains.
- **The Cow Calendar**—Monitors pre-calving practices from dry treatment at last milking to providing added selenium and vitamins A, D, and E and consultations with your veterinarian on dry cow management. Post-calving recommendations include a pre-breeding reproductive examination with goals for re-breeding.
- **Environmental management**—Will help you control the outside sources of disease organisms. This section reflects the lessons we have learned from the costly Avian Influenza epidemic in poultry flocks. Programs for vaccination

and parasite control are suggested.

• **Medicine use**—A final section will keep you in compliance with drug use requirements.

Fact sheets supporting the checklist will improve your understanding of the Bovine Leukosis Virus, the chronic Johne's disease, and the value and limitations of a health certificate.

The remainder of the manual focuses on the whys and hows of the checklist practices. Sections deal with control of new arrivals; control of farm traffic; separation of groups of animals on the farm; and the importance of sanitation and disinfection.

A section on preventive medicines outlines which products to use and when to use them. The need for a programmed approach to disease and parasite control is stressed, including management practices as well as vaccine and drug use. In the section on maintaining disease resistance, the authors provide valuable reference material on maintaining water intake and quality. The influence of stress on production and health is discussed and suggestions are made for decreasing stress in dairy animals.

The role of environment and health is explained and reliable guidelines are offered for mechanical ventilation, hot weather comfort, restraint and handling.

The Food and Drug Administration and the milk marketing co-ops are setting up new regulations which mandate the proper storage of drugs. A section in the manual on meat and milk quality provides instructions for acceptable drug storage and an approved drug use guide. Practices for preventing antibiotic contamination of milk and meat are listed.

Fact sheets and tables included in the manual are short and to the point, well-illustrated, and easy to read. Fact sheets on disposal of dead animals and preparation of a footbath are followed by a table of common disinfectants including chemical characteristics and uses.

The section on preventive medicines provides valuable background material on controlling ringworm, managing contagious mastitis, identifying and controlling both external and internal parasites.

You'll find valuable tables on internal parasite control products and cattle vaccines. The latter identifies the disease, the causative organism, symptoms, and available vaccines together with how to use them and other prevention/control measures.

Designed as a loose-leaf notebook, the Health and Biosecurity Manual is designed to provide unbiased information and to serve as a workbook for planning and recording your health/biosecurity procedures. Read it, then sit down with your veterinarian to customize the checklist for your herd situation. Add or modify items as necessary. Be sure to update the customized checklist once or twice per year. Additional information sheets from your veterinarian, your extension agent or other sour-

Average Farm Feed Costs For Handy Reference

To help farmers across the state to have handy reference of commodity input costs in their feeding operations for DHIA record sheets or to develop livestock feed cost data, here's this week's average costs of various ingredients as compiled from regional reports across the state of Pennsylvania. Remember these are averages so you will need to adjust your figures up or down according to your location and the quality of your crop.

- Corn, No. 2y - 2.76
- Wheat, No. 2 - 3.97
- Barley, No. 3 - 2.15
- Oats, No. 2 - 1.69
- Soybeans, No. 1 - 5.45
- New Ear Corn, - 71.53
- Alfalfa Hay - 130.25
- Mixed Hay - 115.75
- Timothy Hay - 111.75

ces may be added as they become available.

To obtain a copy of the Pennsylvania Dairy Health and Biosecurity Manual, send a check in the amount of \$8, payable to "Penn State University," to Publications Distribution Center, 112 Agricultural Administration Building, University Park, 16802. Ask for

the manual by name. Some county extension offices may have a supply on hand so you may want to check there before ordering.

The Dairy Health/Biosecurity Manual, if used as suggested, will help you do an even better job of managing your herd for health and profitability. Use it to improve your competitive position.

Milk Quality Meetings Scheduled

WEST CHESTER (Chester Co.)—To help dairymen in Chester and Lancaster counties improve the quality of milk they are producing, eight barn meetings have been scheduled starting the end of the month through mid-March.

Dairy extension agents in both counties and industry representatives will be providing informational programs on five different subjects aimed at better enabling farmers to produce better milk.

All meetings are to run from 10 a.m. to noon. Chester County agent Walter Wurster are to discuss bonus money; Lancaster County agent Glenn Shirk and a local veterinarian are to cover somatic cell counts; Wurster and a cleanser industry representative are scheduled to talk on P.I. counts; Shirk is to talk on off flavors in milk; and a dairy fieldman and a local veterinarian are set to discuss drug storage regulations.

The meetings are scheduled:
• Jan. 30, Lancaster — At the Roy A. Miller farm, 30-A Durlach Hill Road in Stevens. To get there, take Rt. 322 west from Ephrata two to three miles and turn north onto Durlach Road. At a "T," turn left onto Clay Schoolhouse Road; turn right again onto Durlach Road and then turn right at the next crossroads. The Miller farm is the first on the right-hand side of the road.

• Feb. 2, Lancaster — At the Earl N. Landis farm, Manheim RD 7. To get there, take Rt. 283 west of Lancaster City about three miles and then turn north onto Rt. 722; at the first crossroad, turn left onto Colebrook Road. At the first lane,

turn left to the first farm.

• Feb. 6, Lancaster — At the Welk Acres farm, 269 Camargo Road, Quarryville. To get there, go to Quarryville and at the junction of Routes 372 and 472, head north past a funeral home onto North Lime St. Go to the second farm on the right-hand side of the road.

• Feb. 9, Chester — At the Jonas B. Stoltzfus farm, 5549 Old Philadelphia Pike, Whitehouse. In the town of Whitehouse, the farm is almost directly across from the restaurant.

• Feb. 16, Chester — At the William L. Stoltzfus farm, Atlgem RD 1. To get there, head north from Cochranville on Rt. 41 about 2½ miles; it is the first farm south of Octorara High School.

• March 2, Lancaster — At the farm of Erwin Oberholtzer, 52 Brubaker Road, Lititz. Head north from Lititz on Rt. 501, turn east onto Newport Road; after two miles, turn left onto Clay Road; take second right onto Carpenter Road, then turn right onto Lincoln-Brunnersville Road; turn right onto Brubaker Road, keep left and Oberholtzer's is the next farm.

• March 13, Chester — At the Stephen S. Stoltzfus farm, Honeybrook RD 3. To get there, head east on Rt. 322 and take first farm on the left-hand side as leaving Honeybrook.

• March 16, Lancaster — At the Benuel S. Fisher, 810 Deiter Road, Strasburg. From Rt. 222 between Refton and Hessdale, turn north onto Walnut Road; take a right onto the next road and Fisher farm is on the right.

Does Your Herd Compare?

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.)—This data is pulled from Pennsylvania DHIA's mainframe computer each week. It is a one-week summary representing approximately one-fourth of the herds on test, as they are tested monthly.

These data are valuable from a business management standpoint and can be used for comparing your operations to the averages from almost 1,400 herds across the state.

DHIA Averages for all herds processed between 12/25/89 and 1/02/90	
Number of Herds Processed	1,050
Number of Cows Processed	61,699
Number of Cows Per Herd	58.7
Milk Per Cow (Lbs)	16,917
%-Fat	3.73
Fat Per Cow (Lbs)	631
%-Protein	3.21
Protein Per Cow (Lbs)	543
Average Days in Milk Per Cow	315
*Value for CWT Milk(\$)	13.56
*Value for CWT Grain(\$)	8.21
*Value for CWT Hay(\$)	4.15
*Value for CWT Silage(\$)	1.51
*Value for Pasture Per Day(\$)	.29
*Value for Milk Per Cow Per Year(\$)	2,295
*Feed Consumed Per Cow Per Year(Lbs)	
A: Grain	6,761
B: Hay	2,761
C: Silage	14,679
D: Day Pasture	61
*Feed Cost Per Cow Per Year(\$)	
A: Grain	555
B: Hay	114
C: Silage	222
D: Pasture	18
*Total Feed Cost Per Cow Per Year(\$)	911
*Income Over Feed Costs Per Year(\$)	1,383
*Grain to Milk Ratio	1:2.5
*Feed Cost Per CWT Milk(\$)	5.39
Avg Level For 836 SCC Herds	336,612
*Member generated figures	

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