



DHIA Has A Few Questions For You

Pennsylvania DHIA wants to make new optional reports available that will be useful to help make dairy farming more profitable. We have already started to survey what services other state DHIA's provide for their members. But what we really need to know is what you need as a farmer in Pennsylvania. So, we are asking you to help us.

We would like you to answer two basic questions for us:

- A. What present reports are most useful to you?**
B. What new DHIA reports could you use?

To help us help you, please take a few minutes to answer the following questions and send us your answers as soon as possible. The address of the Pennsylvania DHIA office is listed at the bottom of this questionnaire.

PRESENT REPORTS

* Which of the present basic DHIA reports do you find most useful? Please list them numbers 1 through 5 in order of importance. Leave blank any report that you do not use.

- a. The Monthly Report.
- b. The Herd Summary.
- c. The Reproductive Management Report.
- d. The Life History Sheet.
- e. The Cow Index Report.

* If you do not use one or more of these reports, please tell us why. _____

* In addition to the basic DHIA reports, optional reports are also offered. Which of these optional reports do you find useful? Again list them numbers 1 through 5 in order of importance.

- a. Somatic Cell Count Report.
- b. Group feeding (up to five groups).
- c. 365-Day Option (365-day actual production).
- d. Barn Card Option(s).
- e. Duplicate Reports (useful for consultants).

* Another option for DHIA monthly reports is to list individual cows or groups of cows in various orders based on the following criteria. Please check which listing order is most useful to your operation.

Listing Order:

- By barn name.
- By test day milk lbs. (herd or group).
- By test day fat lbs. (herd or group).
- By estimated 305-day milk (herd or group).
- By estimated 305-day fat (herd or group).
- By visible identification.
- By index number.

* Is the listing order you checked above the same as the listing order you now use on your DHIA Monthly Report? _____

POSSIBLE NEW OPTIONAL REPORTS

Now we present a list of reports that could be offered from the data we have in our computers here at State College. Read over this list and check any report that may be helpful to your dairy operation. Items that receive the most number of checks from the respondents to this questionnaire will be given high priority consideration when new programs are offered by DHIA.

PRODUCTION

* Items such as cow index number, name, estimated or actual production, days in milk, production of milk, fat and protein, can be arranged in many different ways. Please check any three items on the following list for production criteria that would be most useful to you.

- By 305 milk.
- By 305 fat.
- By 305 protein.
- By 305 fat corrected milk.
- By last test day fat corrected milk.
- By test day milk.
- By test day fat.
- By test day fat corrected milk.
- A culling guide based on your criterion (example: 80% below herd average).
- Other: _____

REPRODUCTION

* Items such as cow index number, name, date for required action or check and number of times bred can be offered. Which three of the following list would be most useful to you?

- List of cows to pregnancy check.
- List of cows to check for heat.
- List of cows which have been bred more than 3 times.
- List of cows due to calve.
- List of cows to dry.
- List of cows to breed.
- Conception rate report by month and lactation.
- Other: _____

HERD HEALTH

* Items such as cow index number, name, occurrence which caused the listing, action required or date of action can be offered. Which items of the following list could you use:

- Listing of cows with SCC above 300,00.
- Analysis of why animals left the herd.
- Other: _____

HERD ANALYSIS

* From the information available, summary reports on a herd basis could be made available. Again, please check any items on the following list that would be useful to you.

- Herd lactation graph (quarterly or semi-annually).
- Monthly milking herd average pounds of milk (over a 24 month period for comparisons).
- Monthly herd average % fat (24 months).
- Monthly herd average days in milk (24 months).
- Analysis of return over feed cost average (24 months).
- Comparison of herd with state averages.
- Other: _____

INDIVIDUAL COW ANALYSIS

* To show a wide range of information on each cow, which items on the following list could you use?

- Lactation graph at the end of each lactation.
- Complete listing of reproductive and health actions on each cow.
- Extended parentage performance information.
- Preprinted application forms for registration of calf.
- Other: _____

LISTINGS

* There are many additional ways in which animals can be listed in your herd. Could you use:

- Cows listed by sire.
- Cows listed by service sire.
- Cows grouped by lactation.
- Cows listed by age.
- Cows listed by days in milk.
- Cows grouped by SCC linear score group.
- Cows listed by per cwt return over feed costs.
- Other: _____

LEVEL OF REPORTING

* Please check the level of DHIA reporting so that is most useful to you in your dairy operation:

- Simple: A report that would simplify and group the information of the present report.
- Regular: A report of the type you presently receive along with a number of the above summary options.
- Specialized: A report constructed to be very specific to your individual operation for special analytical work.

YOUR FARM BACKGROUND

* To help us get to know you better so we can more effectively tailor our programs to your needs, please give us a little background on your farming operation.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____

Phone: () _____

DHIA Herd Number: _____

* How many cows do you milk? _____

* How many acres do you farm? _____

* Do you use a personal computer, feed computer or

intergrated computer system of any of kind on your farm? _____

* If you have no computer on your farm, do you plan to purchase a computer within the next two years?

Thanks for your answers. Please take a separate sheet of paper and make any additional comments that will help us provide you with better DHIA reports. Also, if you have questions about specific services or reports that can be provided by DHIA, don't hesitate to ask us or your field supervisor for more information.

When you have completed this questionnaire and made any comments or questions, clip out this page and send it to:

Mr. G.M. (Geoff) Barr, manager special services
 Pennsylvania DHIA
 Orchard Road
 University Park, PA 16802

Thanks For Your Answers
Your Answers Will Help Develop New Programs