

FOCUS

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PA DHIA Board Meeting Summaries

At the two most recent meetings of the PA DHIA Board in July and October, 1990, the following decisions of interest to DHIA members and others in the dairy industry were made:

1. A joint resolution with Northeast DHIA was adopted that states:

"Whereas, the cost of data collection is increasing and there are persistent problems associated with financing the DHIA system, and

Whereas, there are internal problems and obstacles to efficient systems of data collection and operations that need solving.

Be it resolved, that Pennsylvania DHIA and Northeast DHIA Boards, as of January 1, 1992, intend to charge the dairy industry for production records as part of the solution to financing the DHIA system.

And, be it further resolved, that the DHI system will continue to seek other solutions to the obstacles and inefficiencies."

2. A joint memorandum of understanding with Northeast DHIA was approved that permits PA DHIA to use the Northeast forage testing lab for PA DHIA members with service rates identical to those used for Northeast DHIA members. The agreement will return a portion of the testing

costs to PA DHIA and DHIA supervisors in Pennsylvania.

3. The Heifer Management System was approved for use and the price was set at \$.10 per cow in the milking herd per month.

4. Merger agreements with Cambria, Montgomery, and Venango County associations were approved.

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State DHIA's Help DHIA Services

The National Dairy Herd Improvement Association's for-profit subsidiary, DHIA Services, is launching a new service for state associations thanks to the efforts of Pennsylvania DHIA and Northeast DHIA.

DHIA Services, which was founded several years ago, has signed a contract with Tru-Test, the New Zealand manufacturer of the most widely used milk meter in DHIA in the U.S. The contract makes Services a dealer for the meter in competition with Babson Brothers (Surge) who was previously the sole distributor of Tru-Test meters in this country.

The agreement was negotiated to create competition for Surge with the hope of improving the field services available to DHIA's that own and/or service Tru-Test meters. As a side benefit, there may be some earnings returned to state associations from profits made each year.

Based on that opportunity, Pennsylvania DHIA and Northeast DHIA have each loaned \$37,500 to DHIA Services for start-up funding. A third loan for \$75,000 was also extended from Luana Bank in Iowa to complete the total needed for start-up. These loans are scheduled to be paid back over 24 months.

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DHIA Calendar Of Events

January 1

New Year's Day, Service Center closed.

January 2-3

Pa. DHIA board meeting, Holiday Inn, State College, Pa., noon to noon.

January 21

Supervisor's Advisory Committee meeting, State College, Pa.

January 29

Central District Association meeting, Family House Restaurant, Mifflintown, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

February 12

Southeast District Association meeting, Berks Co. Ag Center, Leesport, Pa., 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

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Barbara Kowalski, quality control specialist, is doing weekly calibration on a Milk-O Scan 605 fat and protein tester.

Laboratory Services Division

LINDA SCIBILIA
Lab Manager

Welcome to the Laboratory division of Pennsylvania DHIA! The lab is a very busy place, and very concerned with the quality of service provided to you, the members. The laboratory division consists of 11 full-time Equipment Operators, one Quality Control Specialist, one Equipment Technician, and the Laboratory Manager. The laboratory operates Mon-

day through Thursday double shifts, and a single shift each on Friday and Saturday. Two-hundred to 400 herds (12,500 to 14,000 samples) are received and tested each day.

Quality service means different things to different people. In the DHIA laboratory, quality consists mainly of 2 components...speed and accuracy. Both are important, but the importance of accuracy far

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Heifer Management Made Easy With New DHIA Program

BOB ORMSBY
Training Coordinator

The PA DHIA Board of Directors has approved the new heifer management option for release January 1, 1991. Several herds from each of the five regions have been involved in the initial pilot program and everything appears in order at this time. The program, which has gone through extensive

planning and research, was developed jointly by PA DHIA and Penn State Dairy Science Extension personnel. Emphasis is placed on providing complete and accurate identification and estimates of genetic merit on heifers grouped by age. The primary objectives of the new option include assisting the member in the management of the heifers in

his herd, improving the accuracy of the identification of heifers and subsequently all animals entering the milking herd, and increasing the efficiency of the progeny test programs conducted by AI units and other breeders groups.

The introduction of this option to the dairymen of Pennsylvania is timely as many dairymen have been searching for a comprehen-

sive heifer management system. DHIA has the parental, genetic and reproductive data already stored in their mainframe computer. It is only logical to arrange it in a manner that makes it accessible as a management tool. By capturing and averaging parental production and genetic information, each heifer is tracked from birth. Parental averages can be used as a guide for estimating potential transmitting ability of calves and heifers for merchandising, mating and culling. Entire life histories recording every event in an animal's life from birth to death are possible with the heifer management program.

Several reports, considered standard each month are pictured here, and in addition, a member may design up to twenty optional action list reports to be generated each month.

The number of reports and summaries a member enrolled on this program will receive varies with the options chose. The Inventory of Individual Heifers lists the sire and dam, the parent PTA average, and the reproductive status of each heifer. The Listing of Removed Heifers keeps tabs on reasons for removal. The Heifer Status Summary shows profiles by age, genetic evaluation, and reproductive efficiency and the average PTA of service sires used. One report lists heifers and cows by sire and still another one by service sires represented in the herd. The Heifer and Cow Reproductive Summary is a report you can literally "go to the bank with." It projects ahead the number of cows and heifers due to calve each month for six months and projects herd totals for those months as well. While valuable

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HEIFER AND COW REPRODUCTIVE SUMMARY

	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB
HERD TOTAL AT START OF MONTH	18	17	18	19	21	21
MILKING AT START OF MONTH	14	14	14	14	17	18
DRY AT START OF MONTH	1	1	2	3	4	2
COWS TO CALVE	0	0	1	1	2	2
COWS TO DRY OFF	0	1	2	2	0	0
HEIFERS TO CALVE	2	1	1	2	0	0
MILKING AT END OF MONTH	16	16	16	17	18	21
DRY AT END OF MONTH	1	2	3	4	2	0
HERD TOTAL AT END OF MONTH	17	18	18	21	21	21

INDIVIDUAL HEIFER LISTING

DHIA Control Number	DAIRY INFORMATION				SIRE		DAM		PARENT AVERAGE				BREEDING				
	Name	Reg. No.	Reg. No.	Birth Date	Reg. No.	Reg. No.	Reg. No.	Reg. No.	White	Fat	Protein	Dollar	K	X	Date	Date	Service
37	CALF-01	23PSU0018	4	11/18/87	34	3282051	3	237	88	128	123	118	187	2	12/15/88	8/17/89	21J0337
38	CALF-01	23PSU0019	4	10/28/87	36	3207285	4	227	31	288	44	111	128	2	12/15/88	8/22/89	29J0787
39	CALF-01	23PSU0020	4	3/28/88	30	28J2783	4	244	66	400	42	114	187	1	1/20/90	10/28/90	21J0717
40	CALF-01	23PSU0021	4	9/18/88	28	8J0098	4	241	80	487	121	118	170	1	2/01/90	11/09/90	21J0337
41	CALF-01	23PSU0022	4	8/27/88	27	1J0205	4	247	69	1002	115	131	184	1	3/01/90	12/07/90	8J0098
42	CALF-01	23PSU0023	4	1/28/89	20	28J2783	4	240	55	573	128	118	177				
43	CALF-01	23PSU0024	4	2/18/89	19	21J0337	4	250	82	1211	174	140	141	1	3/15/90	12/21/90	29J2783
44	CALF-01	23PSU0025	4	8/12/89	18	7J0155	4	241	80	1088	133	133	128				
45	CALF-01	23PSU0026	4	7/18/89	14	8J0098	4	251	74	934	115	123	181	1	9/07/90	8/15/91	7J0155
46	CALF-01	23PSU0027	4	7/18/89	14	28J2783	4	252	74	889	141	127	124				
47	CALF-01	23PSU0028	4	10/23/88	11	7J0155	4	254	84	1381	139	137	148				
48	CALF-01	23PSU0029	4	12/20/88	8	7J0155	4	254	76	1082	128	128	109				
49	CALF-01	23PSU0030	4	1/23/90	8	28J2783	4	261	88	733	152	116	154				
50	CALF-01	23PSU0031	4	3/28/90	7	7J0155	4	240	85	1188	128	130	118				
51	CALF-01	23PSU0032	4	3/28/90	7	28J2783	4	250	82	988	148	133	141				
52	CALF-01	23PSU0033	4	8/18/90	3	7J0155	4	251	74	1307	127	138	137				
53	CALF-01	23PSU0034	4	7/10/90	2	28J2783	4	247	84	881	138	130	123				
54	CALF-01	23PSU0035	4	8/27/90	3	7J0155	4	258	86	1188	133	132	128				
55	CALF-01	23PSU0036	4	8/10/90	1	28J2783	4	262	75	888	141	127	124				
56	CALF-01	23PSU0037	4	8/24/90	1	3248812	8	226	38	824	137	121	105				