

On The Record

Dick Barth

PA DHIA General Mgr.



A lot was printed in this column last year about the reorganization of DHIA in Pennsylvania: why it was being done, what problems would be solved by it, when it would be completed, etc. Now that 1990 is behind us it seems useful to report the progress made last year on this issue.

At the start of 1990 there were four counties that had merged with the state association: Cameron, Elk, Clearfield and Bucks. On Jan. 1, 1990, Union County merged followed by Jefferson on April 1st and four counties, Mercer, Wyoming, Northampton and Clarion a month later on May 1st. On July 1st, four more counties merged: Lackawanna, Cambria, Montgomery and Venango.

The single largest group of county organizations merged on December 31st. That group was

made up of Juniata, Snyder, Wayne, Mifflin, Indiana, McKean, Northumberland, Sullivan and York counties. One more county association, Lycoming, was collecting votes and will probably merge soon. That will bring the total to 24 counties, including Lycoming, that have merged with Pennsylvania DHIA. Those 24 represent about 20 percent of both the herds and cows enrolled in DHIA in the state, and about 25 percent of all DHIA supervisors.

The process of reorganizing is demanding for DHIA elected leaders and staff. To start off with, each county association presents a merger resolution and merger agreement to the local members to vote on. Preparing and discussing the resolution and agreement can take six trips by staff, or sometimes more, to attend meetings of the county board and members.

In order for the merger to go forward, a simple majority, or 51 percent, of all the members in a county association must vote yes to merge. And collecting that many votes can be a difficult task. Just ask the Berks Co. directors. They offered a merger resolution to their members twice last year and failed to get enough votes to carry a decision either way. The members who voted were in favor of merging by a 2 to 1 margin, but the total fell just a few votes short of a simple majority.

The directors and members of the 24 counties who have led the way on reorganization deserve credit. They were willing to take risks and help us learn about this process as we went along. And thanks to their help, we have a smoother merger process for those coming along later.

We still have 34 local associations to merge by October 1, 1992. That's more than one a month, almost two, between now and then. And that's a lot of work and travel. If your county hasn't started to make merger plans yet, you should think seriously about getting it under way so there will be no last minute crunch next year. If you need someone to talk to about it, call me, or Jim Garrity at 800-344-8378. We'll be glad to talk with you.

FOCUS

Pennsylvania
Dairy Herd
Improvement Association

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

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 - 2.51 BU. 4.49 CWT.
Wheat, No. 2 - 2.64 BU. 4.41 CWT.
Barley, No. 3 - 2.04 BU. 4.37 CWT.
Oats, No. 2 - 1.45 BU. 4.52 CWT.
Soybeans, No. 1 - 5.48 BU. 9.15 CWT.
New Ear Corn - 62.33 BU. 3.12 CWT.
Alfalfa Hay - 100.00 BU. 5.00 CWT.
Mixed Hay - 87.50 BU. 4.38 CWT.
Timothy Hay - 80.00 BU. 4.00 CWT.

MILK
AMERICA'S HEALTH KICK™

We're soft on seed.

Unverferth's bristle-type auger produces a gentle flexing action at the flight edge. That means less damage to beans and other fragile seed, better crop performance for you. Also available as an option on Unverferth's 6" truck and grain box augers.



To find out more,
call today:
1-800-322-6301

Unverferth Manufacturing Co., Inc.
P.O. Box 357, Kalida, OH 45853
1-800-322-6301 in the U.S.
419-532-3121 • FAX 419-532-2468
Telex 265026

It Works!

Purina Research and Local On-Farm Usage Shows That Purina® Brand Dairy Freshener Pack Works.

We've Seen The Following Results On Fresh Cows:

- **Milk Increase...because of live yeast cultures and added niacin.**
- **Reduced Incidence of Ketosis... with added Niacin.**
- **Better Appetite.. vitamin package and yeast increase appetite.**
- **Improved Breeding... by reducing stress and supplying extra vitamins.**

Call Us Today

HESMILLS
PURINA CHOWS

6 S. Vintage Rd.
Paradise, PA 17562
(717) 442-4183
(717) 768-3301

Rt. 82
Unionville, PA 18375
(215) 347-2377

* Registered trademark of Ralston Purina Company

VEGETABLE GROWERS WANTED

Large Pa. Vegetable Packing House
Looking For Pepper &
Cucumber Growers.

Will Be Holding Meeting For New
And Existing Growers

10:00 A.M.

Friday, March 1, 1991

At Hilltop Farm Inc.

**RD #3 Box 186, Violet Rd.
Mifflinburg, PA 17844**

Speakers:

**Mike Orzeleck - Penn State Univ.
Doyle Grenoble - Penn State Univ.
Local County Ext. Agents**

This Meeting Good For Pesticide License Points.

Lunch Will Be Provided

For More Information

Call (717) 966-9700

**Gary Boyer
Paul Zimmerman**