

## Heifer Management Enhancements

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 Director of Member Education  
 The Pa. DHIA Heifer Management Option is designed to help members manage their heifer herds, improve identification of heifers and subsequently — for cows entering milking herds — increase the efficiency of progeny test programs conducted by AI units and other breeder groups. At present approximately one in six Pennsylvania heifers enter DHI milking herds with the sire unknown, and one in eight have unknown dams, slowing genetic progress. Improved heifer herd management should put money in the

### 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 - 2.69 BU. 4.82 CWT.
- Wheat, No. 2 - 2.62 BU. 4.38 CWT.
- Barley, No. 3 - 2.01 BU. 4.24 CWT.
- Oats, No. 2 - 1.45 BU. 4.52 CWT.
- Soybeans, No. 1 - 5.63 BU. 9.40 CWT.
- New Ear Corn - 67.42 BU. 3.37 CWT.
- Alfalfa Hay - 109.25 BU. 5.46 CWT.
- Mixed Hay - 85.75 BU. 4.29 CWT.
- Timothy Hay - 86.25 BU. 4.31 CWT.

pockets of DHI members through heifers that enter the milking herd at a younger age. Fully two-thirds of the heifers entering DHI milking herds are 25 months or older. The extra milk an older heifer produces during her first lactation will not offset the additional costs of a later freshening animal.

A heifer with a high genetic potential produces more offspring and has a headstart on her lifetime production when grown and managed to freshen the first time at 22 to 24 months of age.

A few minor enhancements have been made to the Heifer Management forms. These changes improve the understanding of the instructions and make them easier to use.

The remarks codes used are listed on the auxiliary sheet now for use by dairymen and others who are entering data on the sheets.

Two major enhancements introduced recently are the ability to choose a sort order for heifers on the reports and a code generating a registry application for any heifer you indicate, whether young or old.

When the heifer management option was started, the heifers were sorted by control numbers. For the most part, the control numbers are in age order because the numbers are assigned as the calves are recorded on the cow barn sheet. Purchased heifers added to the heifer herd are assigned the next available control number causing them to be out of age order.

The dairyman usually will not use the control number to identify a heifer. He will use either a name

or number.

He now has the additional option of sorting them by name, eartag, visible ID, or registration number. The choice is made on the management options page in the grid that lists the various reports.

An added plus is that the choice can be made for each report.

Until recently, the applications for registry were generated only for calves reported on the cow barn sheets and they had to have a registered sire and dam.

Due to popular demand, a code has been introduced that requests an application for registry for any heifer on the heifer barn sheet. There may be a reason why you will need an application for a heifer from a cow identified as a grade. The code to use is RA and it goes in the treatment code area on the barn sheet accompanied by the date you are requesting it.

The Pa. DHIA Heifer Management Option does not tell you how to manage your herd. It serves as a resource or tool to better equip you to make your own management decisions. If we can keep track of your heifers' ages, sires, dams and reproductive status, we have accomplished a useful task for you.

When we supply you with applications for registry (pre-printed), PTAs of the heifers, sires, and service sires as well as various summary reports, then Pa. DHIA is accomplishing its goal of providing a service that enhances your opportunities for profitability.

You local DHI representative is ready to assist you with this and answer questions you may have about any of our programs.



# FOCUS

Pennsylvania Dairy Herd Improvement Association

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

### How 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 4/29/91 and 5/06/91

Number of Herds Processed	1,358
Number of Cows Processed	79,659
Number of Cows Per Herd	58.6
Milk Per Cow (Lbs)	17,572
%-Fat	3.67
Fat Per Cow (Lbs)	646
%-Protein	3.19
Protein Per Cow (Lbs)	561
Average Days in Milk Per Cow	316
*Value for CWT Milk(\$)	13.27
*Value for CWT Grain(\$)	7.86
*Value for CWT Hay(\$)	4.28
*Value for CWT Silage(\$)	1.53
*Value for Pasture Per Day(\$)	.28
*Value for Milk Per Cow Per Year(\$)	2,333
*Feed Consumed Per Cow Per Year(Lbs)	
A: Grain	7,001
B: Hay	2,425
C: Silage	15,036
D: Day Pasture	67
*Feed Cost Per Cow Per Year(\$)	
A: Grain	550
B: Hay	103
C: Silage	230
D: Pasture	19
*Total Feed Cost Per Cow Per Year(\$)	904
*Income Over Feed Costs Per Year(\$)	1,429
*Grain to Milk Ratio	1:2.5
*Feed Cost Per CWT Milk(\$)	5.15
Avg Level For 1,141 SCC Herds	322,504
*Member generated figures	

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