

FOCUS

Pennsylvania
Dairy Herd
Improvement Association

Pennsylvania DHIA news is presented in FOCUS each week in cooperation with Dixie L. Burris, manager of membership development.

For more information about these news items or the services of DHIA call 1-800-DHI-TEST. The call is free.

Dairying In Japan

DR. L.E. CHASE
Cornell University

Two Japanese journalists recently visited the dairy extension group at Cornell. Some of their comments about the dairy industry in Japan were interesting.

Milk prices received by dairymen are also depressed in Japan and the dairymen are quite upset. The current price is about 1.3 percent lower than last year. They were quite surprised to hear the magnitude of the price cuts that U.S. dairymen are facing.

The SCC count standard for shipping milk in Japan is 300,000. If the count is higher than this, the price received for such milk drops by 40-50 percent. They indicated that an incentive of this magnitude is quite effective in getting the dairy producer's attention relative to milk quality.

They also shared some information from the 1990 DHI summary from Hokkaido. Hokkaido is the northern island of Japan. This DHI data represented 7,773 herds. The data provided included:

Milk, lbs/cow	16,383
Milk fat, percent	3.73
Milk protein, percent	3.15
Milk SNF, percent	8.67
Calving interval, months	13.2
1st service, days in milk	84
Days open	121
Services/conception	1.8
Avg age, 1st calving (mos)	27

There are some high producing herds in Hokkaido. Production data for the 10 top herds included:

LAWRENCE SPECHT
PSU Dairy Specialist
Age in months at calving and production in first lactation were summarized for Holstein heifers from the 1989-90 DHIA test year information.



ARIS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ARIS allows dairymen and their authorized veterinarians and nutritional consultants to access individual DHIA herd records from a personal computer to the main computer in State College. Call the State DHIA office number listed in the FOCUS column head to learn more about how you can use this unique DHIA service to increase the profitability of your herd and the DHIA records you produce.

Q: If I subscribe to the ARIS program, can I enter data such as breeding dates every day, or do I have to wait until the supervisor comes to the farm to have that kind of information updated?

A: The ARIS program is designed to give you important management reports using the data that is stored in our mainframe. It is not possible for any ARIS user to add to or to change any of the data on the mainframe. All her data is updated when the herd processes each month. A personal computer program which would allow users to make daily changes to breeding dates, etc. will be available in the future.

Cows/herd	94
Milk, lbs/cow	26,699
Milk fat, percent	3.83
Milk protein percent	3.13
Milk SNF, percent	8.66

Heifer Stats Revealing

There were 84,250 heifers calving for the first time between 18 and 35 months of age. Most frequent ages at calving were 24 months (13,445) and 25 months (12,071). Average age at first calving was 26.7 months. This compares favorably to 26.8 and 27.0 months for the 1988-89 and 1987-88 DHIA years.

Actual 305 day production ranged from 12,405 pounds of milk at 19 months up to 15,065 pounds at 27 months.

As the table below indicates, it declined slowly to 14,391 pounds at 35 months of age. With production at 14,822 pounds for animals calving at 24 months, it is clear that there is no advantage to holding heifers to calve at older ages.

AGE AT FIRST CALVING FOR HOLSTEIN HEIFERS		305 Day Production		
Months	#	Milk	Fat	Prt.
<19	265	13552	491	424
19	185	12405	447	388
20	412	13128	471	408
21	1070	13779	498	427
22	3428	14411	522	448
23	8533	14761	536	459
24	13445	14822	538	461
25	12071	14997	543	466
26	9791	15000	545	467
27	7790	15065	547	469
28	5886	15012	545	468
29	4765	14936	545	467
30	3589	14774	539	460
31	2740	14782	539	462
32	2196	14819	542	463
33	1707	14614	534	457
34	1390	14577	535	458
35	1140	14391	527	452

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

Top Herd	Average of Top 10 Herds
Cows/herd	55
Milk, lbs/cow	25,323
Milk fat, percent	3.70
Milk protein percent	3.16
Milk SNF, percent	8.72

you will need to adjust your figures up or down according to your location and the quality of your crop.

- Corn, No. 2y - 2.74 BU. 4.90 CWT.
- Wheat, No. 2 - 2.80 BU. 4.68 CWT.
- Barley, No. 3 - 1.73 BU. 3.70 CWT.
- Oats, No. 2 - 1.38 BU. 4.31 CWT.
- Soybeans, No. 1 - 5.60 BU. 9.352 CWT.
- New Ear Corn - 73.20 BU. 3.66 CWT.
- Alfalfa Hay - 110.50 BU. 5.525 CWT.
- Mixed Hay - 98.75 BU. 4.938 CWT.
- Timothy Hay - 106.25 BU. 5.313 CWT.

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