

A History And Perspective Of The Pennsylvania DHIA Program

(Continued from Page B15)

herd) were considered two days work; 80-100 cows (in one herd) were considered three days work; 27-30 herds were considered to be a full months work in most associations.

Gearhart listed the responsibilities of various parties:

A. Specialists: 1. Assist in organizing the local association and provide the herd books and all record forms. 2. Conducts short courses for training the Supervisor. 3. Acts in an advisory capacity with local directors, county agents, and supervisors. 4. Directs the yearly summary and herd analysis.

B. County Agents: 1. Determines interest for an Association and calls organizational meetings. 2. Assists in locating and starting a supervisor. 3. Advises directors, members, and supervisors. 4. Cooperates in preparation for yearly summary reports and monthly reports.

C. Directors: 1. Assumes all responsibility for conducting business of the Association. 2. Determines operating expenses and method of payment of dues and fees. 3. Employs a supervisor who is approved by Penn State.

Section 3

The Structuring of DHIA in Pennsylvania

In the early 1900s a testing club or association was, in reality, a community program. The first available listing of associations within a county was in 1926 in the PA Dairymen Association Annual Report. Each association continued to be summarized as an entity until 1958. It is not clear when the association records were combined to give a county wide summary but the late 1940s is probable, coinciding with the introduction of DHIA fieldmen. It took Central Processing of Records in the late 1950s to force a true county wide program, with one board of County Directors and one County Treasurer.

For purposes of communication and to collect Social

Security, liability, and Workmans Compensation fees, the State was divided into five districts. It is not clear when this districting first began, but it was probably the early 1940s. The division into five districts was continued until the early 1980s.

In 1947 DHIA fieldmen were added. For fieldman functions, the state was divided into two parts, having a similar number of supervisors and associations in each half. In 1964 a third fieldman was added and the state divided into three areas. When Earl Baum retired in 1981, the state reverted to two areas. In 1984 four areas were created, in 1985 it was increased to six areas, in 1986 it went back to five areas, and in 1989 a further realignment was made with Lancaster County becoming one area, and four areas accounting for the rest of the state.

Section 4

County Agents, Dairy Extension, and DHIA Cow testing was started by dairymen prior to the time County Agents were hired by Penn State. In 1914 the Smith Lever Act first established the Cooperative Extension Service, and County Agents as we know them today began work.

Agents were instruments of change, taking a new or proven idea and urging others to try it. They were production oriented and believed that cow testing was a valuable management tool that would enhance the profitability of the dairy cow. The County Extension Annual Report referred to the cow testing program and

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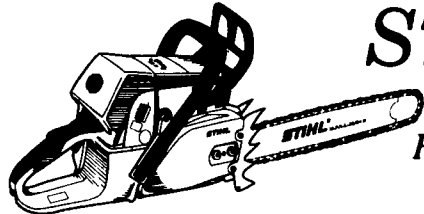
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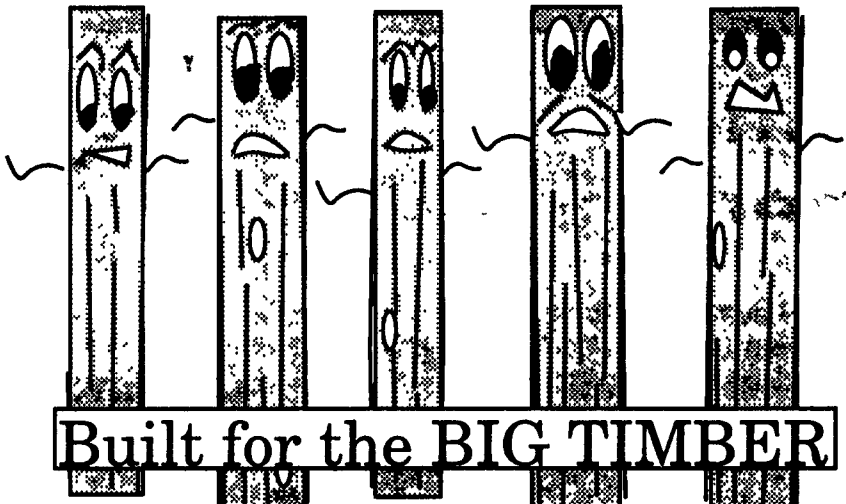
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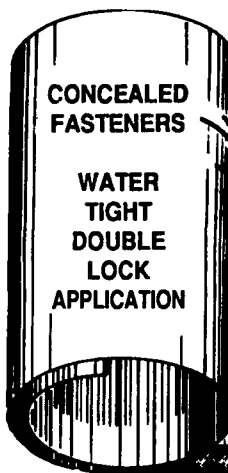
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