



Measure The Performance



Marcus and Chester reviewing their DHIA records

MARCUS & CHESTER MARTIN Mercersburg, PA

Marcus and Chester Martin operate a 85 cow Holstein operation in Franklin County. These brothers have been partners since 1980 when they began renting the farm from their father, Glenn Martin. Glenn started the operation in 1956. Last summer Marcus and Chester purchased the farm from their father.

The Martins current feed program consists of 6 lbs. of hay along with 25 lbs. of high quality haylage and 30 lbs. of corn silage. Up until July of 1988 the grain was fed as a straight 18% mix made up of shelled corn, barley, molasses and Purina North Atlantic 38% concentrates. Having felt that their herd had reached a plateau in milk they decided to try a recommendation that their Purina Dairy Specialist suggested.

In July of that year "Marc" and "Chet" backed their protein mix down to a 12% grain ration and started top dressing with Purina North Atlantic 40% concentrate. Their current milk to grain ratio is a 3 to 1 from 65 lbs. of milk and higher. From 50 lbs. to 65 lbs. of milk a 3.5 to 1. And from 50 lbs. of milk on down a 4 to 1. The top dress starts at 60 lbs. of milk. They recently started top-dressing with a Purina High Energy 32% Concentrate.

Here Are The Results The Martins Have See In The Last Few Years:

DATE	#HEAD	% DAYS	MILK LBS.	% TEST	FAT LBS.	% PROTEIN	PROTEIN LBS.
7-88	82.1	86.7	17,851	3.5	626	3.1	549
7-89	85.6	86.7	19,473	3.7	712	3.1	608
9-91	96.9	83.6	20,045	3.6	721	3.2	632

Listed below are some comments that Chet had to share about their current program:

- "The first thing that we noticed with the new program was a reduction in our protein purchases by 1 ton/month."
- "We also are seeing higher peaking cows along with better persistency."
- "Herd health and breeding are both doing well and our current calving interval is 12.4"
- "Because of good forage quality and our split feeding method we can feed our cows more cost effectively as well as focusing in on peak milk persistency and body condition."

Purina Mills would like to thank the Martins for sharing their records with us and wish them continued success in the future.

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