



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.

State Acts On Ag Bills

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Several agriculture-related bills were approved by Senate committees last week, according to Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee Chairman Sen. Edward Helfrick, R-Elysburg. Helfrick said his committee took action on a bill that would give some farmers relief from skyrocketing property taxes.

Senate Bill 1290 would freeze the tax assessment and the county, municipal and school millage rates imposed on farms participating in the state's Farmland Preservation Program.

The measure would also ensure that those farms are assessed on the basis of their use rather than their market value.

The senator stressed that the tax relief plan would only apply to landowners who have placed their land in perpetual or 25-year easements under the Farmland Preservation Program.

"The tax relief bill would help ensure that those farms that cannot be sold to developers do not get taxed out of existence," he said.

The senator pointed out that steadily rising property taxes will make it difficult for farms placed in conservation easements to afford to pay taxes on the land.

"As the areas around these farms are built up by developers, property taxes will continue to skyrocket, as new roads and services are needed," said Helfrick. "And farmers who continue to work their land will have to bear the increased tax burden."

Helfrick added that the Senate Appropriations Committee has approved his legislation to enable the state to participate in the federal Farms for the Future Program. This program offers states financial assistance to pay interest on borrowed funds used to buy farm conservation easements.

Helfrick noted that this legislation is part of

the comprehensive "Ag 2000" package that he introduced earlier this year, aimed at keeping farming a profitable business into the next century.

"Taken together, these two bills would improve Pennsylvania's farmland preservation efforts and protect valuable land for the next generation of farmers," said Helfrick.

Under the legislation, fees collected by the Department through certification and inspection programs would be deposited into a restricted account that would provide more money for enforcement of the Plant Pest Act.

The bill also establishes civil penalties for violating the law.

DHIA Averages for all herds processed between 12/02/91 and 12/09/91

Number of Herds Processed	1,302
Number of Cows Processed	72,370
Number of Cows Per Herd	55.5
Milk Per Cow (Lbs)	17,970
%-Fat	3.65
Fat Per Cow (Lbs)	656
%-Protein	3.17
Protein Per Cow (Lbs)	571
Average Days in Milk Per Cow	317
*Value for CWT Milk(\$)	12.09
*Value for CWT Grain(\$)	7.87
*Value for CWT Hay(\$)	4.22
*Value for CWT Silage(\$)	1.52
*Value for Pasture Per Day(\$)	.27
*Value for Milk Per Cow Per Year(\$)	2,173
*Feed Consumed Per Cow Per Year(Lbs)	
A: Grain	6,963
B: Hay	2,698
C: Silage	14,920
D: Day Pasture	59
*Feed Cost Per Cow Per Year(\$)	
A: Grain	548
B: Hay	113
C: Silage	227
D: Pasture	16
*Total Feed Cost Per Cow Per Year(\$)	906
*Income Over Feed Costs Per Year(\$)	1,266
*Grain to Milk Ratio	1:2.5
*Feed Cost Per CWT Milk(\$)	5.05
Avg Level For 1099 SCC Herds	325,313

*Member generated figures

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 - 2.73 BU. 4.89 CWT.
- Wheat, No. 2 - 3.36 BU. 5.61 CWT.
- Barley, No. 3 - 1.95 BU. 4.17 CWT.
- Oats, No. 2 - 1.54 BU. 4.80 CWT.
- Soybeans, No. 1 - 5.32 BU. 8.88 CWT.
- Ear Corn - 65.23 BU. 3.26 CWT.
- Alfalfa Hay - 126.00 TON 6.30 CWT.
- Mixed Hay - 111.13 TON 5.56 CWT.
- Timothy Hay - 108.38 TON 5.42 CWT.

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