

Researchers Offer New Bull Rating Index

(Continued from Page A32)

which can affect a cow's ability to stand up to the demands of calving and milking, year after year.

Using the standard addition-and-multiplication formula shown here, the Index calculates those factors and them to a comparable rating scale of protein and fat yields.

LPI Formula:

$6x$ (Sx fat proof + 6x protein proof) + $4x$ (3x final class + 4x mammary system + 2 feet & legs + capacity) = LPI

For example, a bull that is + 14 on fat, + 15 on protein, +7 final class, +4 mammaryes, + 8 feet & legs, and + 8 capacity would add up like this:

Example:
 $6x$ (Sx14, + 6x15) = 960 + $4x$ (3x7, + 4x4, + 2x8, + 8) = 244 960 + 244 = 1,204 LPI

An LPI score of 1,200 or better represents a truly exceptional sire, but even bulls with scores in the 800 to 1,000 range can be counted on to contribute to the long-term profitability of a herd.

"We want genetic progress to improve longevity, while keeping the emphasis on high production," Dekkers said.

Dairymen looking for sires that combine a profitable balance of good type and production volume can use LPI as an indicator.

Farm Disaster Payments Process Begins

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Farmers may immediately begin the process of qualifying for federal disaster payments for crop losses from 1990 or 1991 weather or related

conditions, announced Don Unangst, state executive director of USDA's Pennsylvania State Office of ASCS.

Congress has passed and the President has signed an appropriations act that provides \$995 million to provide farmers with disaster payments for 1990 or 1991 crop losses.

Producers may elect to receive payments for one of the two years covered. Payments will be based on 65 percent of either the commodity target price or loan rate for program crops.

In the case of soybeans, sunflowers, and other non-program crops, payment rates will be 65 percent of average of market prices for the previous five years after dropping the highest and lowest prices.

Payments may be affected by the total of disaster benefits calculated nationally as the amount available is set by legislation and payments may have to be reduced by factoring in order to keep expenditures under the ceiling.

Qualification for payment is based on the results of severe weather such as the drought conditions which affected Pennsylvania agriculture earlier this year. Other severe conditions may also establish eligibility under certain circumstances.

Farmers will also need to demonstrate production losses greater than 40 percent if they had no federal crop insurance or 35 percent if they carried this insurance.

Most crops produced in Pennsylvania will be eligible for coverage including corn, soybeans, ornamental flowering shrubs, vegetables, fruits, etc.

Actual applications for the disaster payment will not be accepted until dates to be established in early 1992. In the meantime, ASCS county offices will accept preliminary applications for disaster credit, basic farm and production data, and other preliminary application information. All such actions will be subject to final issuance of program regulations.

"Farmers who experienced reduced yields this growing season should check with their local ASCS office to be prepared to file when program sign-up is announced," said Unangst. There are sixty local ASCS offices across the state.



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