

FOCUS

Pennsylvania
Dairy Herd
Improvement Association

Management Information For Barn Use

C.W. HEALD
PSU Extension Specialist

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — Last year at this time I wrote about DHIA feed costs. With another year's data, let's review the situation.

High producing dairy cows cost more to feed and often require more expensive feed to produce at high levels. However, it is the high producing cow that usually generates the most profit for a dairyman, if expenses are controlled in a reasonable way.

"Feed costs are approximately 50 percent of the cost a dairyman pays for producing milk" is a rule of thumb often quoted.

The last three years were all influenced by abnormal weather in the growing season. In turn, the quality or quantity of forages produced the previous year affected annual milk yield.

Production was lower in 1990 because of low quality stored forages. In 1991 it was up dramatically. When production increases nationally and consumption does not, the price of milk generally falls and 1991 was an example of this trend.

Dairy farm profits suffered as a result.

However, average income over feed cost was not as poor in 1991 as in 1989 (see averages in the last line of the table below).

Average Milk Income Over Feed Costs	1989 16986 lbs	1990 16846 lbs	1991 17656
25000 to 20999	\$2164	\$2605	\$2009
20000 to 15999	1639	1971	1507
15000 to 10999	1166	1403	1063
10000 to 10999	779	905	737
Average	922	1589	1298

Despite the weather effect, the higher producing cows are still the most profitable.

Feeding 1 pound of grain that costs an average of \$7.76 per hundred-weight (cwt.) for each 2.5 pounds of milk that yields \$12.50/cwt. income, continues to be highly profitable.

A way to make this more profitable is to feed the best forages possible.

Forage analysis identifies the best forages and ration balancing improves forage use, increases production and boosts profits.

Now is the time to collect feed samples and have them analyzed. Your DHIA supervisor will be pleased to help you with sample collection and shipping.

For increased profits in 1992, maximize production per cow while holding the line on costs. This may be a good time to get help in increasing production per cow.

Consult your extension agent, veterinarian and/or local dairy consultant. It may be time and effort well spent.

If you like to be part of new upcoming programs, try the new DHIA Herd Performance Evaluator. This new experimental program might find some herd opportunities for you.

Call toll free, 800 DHI TEST (800 344 8378). The program is of most benefit to herds working with a consultant.

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 - 2.77 BU. 4.96 CWT.

Wheat, No. 2 - 3.57 BU. 5.96 CWT.

Barley, No. 3 - 1.98 BU. 4.24 CWT.

Oats, No. 2 - 1.62 BU. 5.05 CWT.

Soybeans, No. 1 - 5.39 BU. 9.00 CWT.

Ear Corn - 68.83 BU. 3.44 CWT.

Alfalfa Hay - 118.00 TON 5.90 CWT.

Mixed Hay - 106.75 TON 5.34 CWT.

Timothy Hay - 106.25 TON 5.31 CWT.

? QUESTIONS? USE THIS PROBLEM SOLVER

WITH DRAG AUGER FEEDERS			WITH BIG DUTCHMAN CHAIN FEEDERS		
PROBLEM	CAUSES	SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS			
System Stalls	Bad braze Kinked auger Feed level too high Too many feed cycles	File or grind excess braze Cut out kink and re-braze Lower feed level Delete a feed cycle	Chain never needs brazing Chain does not kink Chain runs at high or low levels of feed		
System runs, stops then reverses	Foreign object in trough Bad braze at drive	Find and remove object Make sure feed cleaner is working Determine drive and repair	Chain virtually is unaffected by foreign objects. Feed cleaner is unnecessary and system cannot run backwards		
Feed on floor at row ends	Elbows worn through again	Cut auger, remove elbows and couplers, replace and re assemble	Chain feeders have no elbows to wear out.		
Feed line is not running	Failed motor	Determine which motor(s) out of the four are bad, replace and reset.	Only one motor per feed line.		
Auger jumped out of trough (and is wound all over the walk ways).	Auger broke	Gather a welder, torch and grinder. Replace auger in trough, and braze. Be careful not to stretch auger.	If chain breaks, it is easily repaired with a hammer and chain breaker tool. Chain does not stretch.		
Too many smaller sized eggs	Birds not getting enough feed	Add yet another feed cycle. (May require at least 8 per day.)	Chain feeders provide 2½ times more feed space than drag auger feeders allowing it to be run as few as 3 times per day.		
Too many cracks	Feeder runs too often causing excess bird movement in the cage during laying periods.	Delete feeding during laying period. (Beware that reduction may result in smaller eggs.)	More feed space allows less feeding cycles, which means you don't have to feed during laying period.		
Wasted feed in the walk ways	Feed trough lip is not high enough	No solution	Big Dutchman has high-lip trough.		

**DON'T PUT UP WITH PROBLEMS!
BUY BIG DUTCHMAN**

H HERSHEY EQUIPMENT COMPANY, INC. 255 PLANE TREE DRIVE LANCASTER, PA 17603 (717) 393-5807



Big Dutchman.
"a step ahead"

WANTED

For Stealing Feedlot Profits



'Shifty Starling'



'Blackie Blackbird'

Avitrol treated grain baits have been proven successful year after year in removing pest birds from feedlots

REWARD... AVITROL

HESS AGRICULTURAL MARKETING
218 Rockpoint Road
Marietta, PA 17547
(717) 426-3135

EPA Approved
RESTRICTED USE PESTICIDE
Avitrol
CORPORATION

FOR SALE PEANUT HULLS For BEDDING

Most effective as bedding for all kinds of beef and dairy cattle, hogs, horses, sheep and poultry

Any amount delivered or call for at farm.

Esbenshade Turkey Farm

(America's Oldest—
PO Box 337
Paradise, Pa.
(717) 687-7631
1 (800) 273-3882
(717) Area Only