

24-Month Calving Is Okay

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STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — Age at calving and production in first lactation for Holstein heifers has been summarized from the past four years of DHIA tested herd information.

Test Year	# Heifers	Avg Age at Calving
1987-88	76153	27.0
1988-89	78600	26.8
1989-90	80403	26.7
1990-91	79502	26.5

The average age at first calving for Holstein heifers has dropped by half a month in four years. If there is a potential saving of from one to two dollars per day, this reduction in age at calving has saved Pennsylvania dairymen from 1.2 to 2.4 million dollars in 1990-91 compared to 1987-88. However, there is still plenty of room for improvement as the table below indicates:

Age at Calving Months	#	305 Milk	Day Fat	Production Protein
<19	266	14169	513	439
19	175	13910	492	427
20	370	13631	490	423
21	910	14494	522	448
22	2893	15275	549	472
23	7754	15555	560	481
24	12200	15674	565	485
25	11432	15794	569	488
26	9948	15822	571	490
27	8080	15791	571	489
28	6282	15707	568	487
29	4937	15672	568	486



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

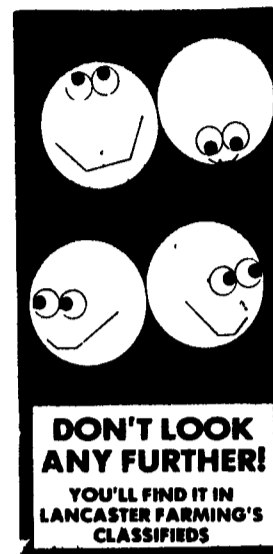
compiled from regional reports across the state of Pennsylvania. Remember these are averages so you will need to adjust your figures up or down according to your location and the quality of your crop.

Corn, No. 2y - 2.82 BU. 5.05 CWT.
Wheat, No. 2 - 3.82 BU. 6.38 CWT.
Barley, No. 3 - 2.11 BU. 4.52 CWT.

30	4031	15632	564	484
31	3212	15563	564	483
32	2429	15494	561	482
33	1939	15458	559	481
34	1429	15363	557	480
35	1215	15248	552	476

With production of 15,674 pounds of milk at 24 months of age and little change thereafter, it looks as if the recommendation to calve heifers at 24 months of age is a reasonable one.

Oats, No. 2 - 1.78 BU. 5.55 CWT.
Soybeans, No. 1 - 5.57 BU. 9.30 CWT.
Ear Corn - 70.39 BU. 3.52 CWT.
Alfalfa Hay - 117.25 TON 5.86 CWT.
Mixed Hay - 105.00 TON 5.25 CWT.
Timothy Hay - 108.00 TON 5.40 CWT.



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