

# Pennsylvania DHIA Sends Letter To Lancaster Members

**EVERETT NEWSWANGER**  
Managing Editor  
STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.)—In an attempt to clarify its position for transfer of records, a letter from Pennsylvania Dairy Herd Improvement Association was sent to each member of Lancaster County DHIA this week. The letter was in response to Lancaster's program to distribute individual release forms through supervisors to all their members over the next several weeks.

"For many years the Pennsylvania and the Lancaster DHIA's have worked together to benefit DHIA members all over the state," said Frank Orner, Pennsylvania president. "United in a common purpose, we have seen our associations grow in size, capability and complexity, with new services being added in response to changing needs.

However, Orner said the form letter requesting release to process records at another data center was disappointing because Pennsylvania DHIA has made efforts to meet the needs that members have expressed. He listed the new individual cow page that's now available as an example. Other soon to

come items mentioned were: lap top computers to provide electronic data entry and test day reports on the farm, an improved herd summary report and offers to reduce DHIA fees by redistribution of field service costs.

Orner said the transfer of records requires an individual letter from a member with reasons for requesting a transfer clearly showing the financial benefits that transfer will provide. "The important thing to note is that if an individual makes a request to transfer records, meets the proper requirements to insure that records are not jeopardized and shows financial benefits, the request will be granted," Orner said. "If the requirements are not met, they will not be transferred."

According to the statement sent along with the letter, the state's procedures for requesting release and transfer are: A. Dairyman must notify PA DHIA by letter stating the reasons for requesting a release; and B. The PA DHIA board will act on the request at the next regularly scheduled board meeting. The request must be received at least 15 days prior to the board meeting to be considered at that meeting.

Conditions to be met for transfer are: A. No outstanding bills for service in existence; B. No pending rules, or bylaws violation in existence; C. The dairyman has not been solicited by another organization and must be willing to sign a statement to that effect.

Acceptable release criteria are: A. The request for release must document a need for specific services that are not available in the home state and show how that specific service will be of financial benefit to the dairyman; B. Documented failure of the home state

DHIA to provide service that meets quality certification standards, or fails to abide by the National DHIA bylaws or official rules.

Unacceptable release reasons are: A. A member conflict with a DHIA employee; B. Differences in cost between states of similar or identical services; C. Differences between states in the enforcement of official rules; D. Difference of opinion with the operation of the association; E. Alleged laboratory or data processing inaccuracies; and F. Alleged, but unsubstantiated dirty equipment or other

unsatisfactory test day conditions.

## Lancaster Members Request Release

Meanwhile, the signing of release request forms continues among Lancaster DHIA members. Officials said that since the start of the program, as reported two weeks ago, more than 300 dairymen have sent requests to Pennsylvania for transfer. The program to give each Lancaster member the opportunity to receive a release form through the local supervisors is expected to be completed by the middle of May.

# Dickinson Submits Resignation

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appointment of a new CEO at the next meeting on July 24-25. Until then, Dukas has requested that Dickinson remain on full-time employment with National DHIA until a new staffing plan is in place. Dickinson has agreed to this request.

In a personal note to friends associated with the DHIA system, Dickinson said that his announcement may come as a surprise, and surprise announcements often cause rumors to fly. Since those rumors are seldom beneficial to the people or organizations that are the subject, Dickinson wrote the note to communicate constructive feedback on the facts of his action.

"The late-April meeting of the

Executive Committee was planned during our convention at Madison," Dickinson said. "That meeting appeared to me to be perfect timing to start the transition process toward a new CEO. Why start? Diane and I have many interests and activities we would like to pursue together. All too often, we have not been able to do things together, like visit our grandchildren, because of the demands of the CEO position.

"Why start now? This is the ideal time of year for National DHIA to recruit new staff. Between the convention and the Executive Committee meeting, Phil and I developed a proposed transition plan. We all hope the plan adopted by the Executive Committee will

eventually strengthen National DHIA to serve the DHIA system and the remainder of the dairy industry even better than now.

"I do hope I can continue to work for National DHIA on a part-time basis and contribute to the betterment of the DHIA system after the transition to a new CEO is completed by the Board in late July," Dickinson said. "I have enjoyed my opportunity here at National DHIA immensely. Diane and I will always treasure the friendships we have made in my career prior to coming with National DHIA and while I have been in my present position. I hope I will be able to continue working with you in a new capacity."

# Cornell, Northeast DHIA Sign Memorandum

ITHACA, N.Y. — Two Memoranda were signed recently to reaffirm the strong relationship between Cornell's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) and the Northeast Dairy Herd Improvement Association, as well as the relationship between the Cornell Dairy Records Processing Laboratory (DRPL) and Northeast DHIA.

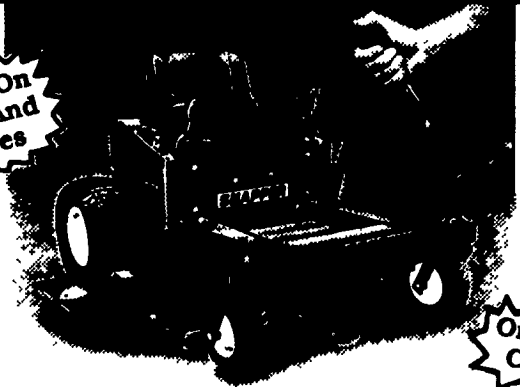
The first memorandum "...defines clearly the respective

rights and responsibilities of CALs and NeDHIA in the administration supervision and financing of the National Cooperative Dairy Herd Improvement Program of New York." The objectives of the NCDHIP within New York State are:

1. To provide useful and accurate information that can be used by dairy farmers to improve the efficiency of their operations,

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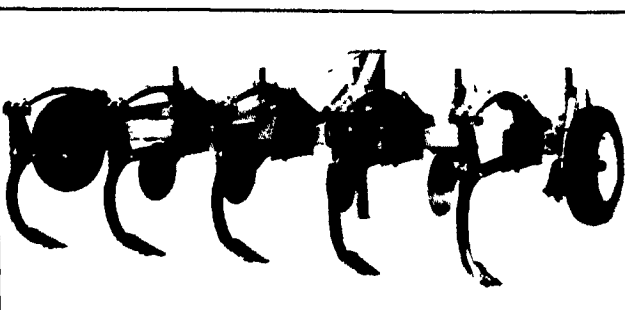


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