

FOCUS

Pennsylvania
Dairy Herd
Improvement Association

Dixie L. Burris, membership development,
Call 1-800-DHI-TEST for information.

Lab Has 100 Percent Quality Record

One of the largest milk sample testing labs on the East Coast has racked up the rare distinction of having 100 percent compliance on the quality control blind sample program. For 15 consecutive months the Pennsylvania DHIA lab has a 100 percent compliance record on quality control.

"It's rare for a lab to have 100 percent compliance for a 12 month period," said Linda Scibilia, lab manager. We are running up over 15 months.

The Pennsylvania DHIA lab has four stations of testing equipment that have error handling systems built into them. If for some reason the wrong information is obtained from a milk sample, the machine shuts itself down, and the computer tells the operator where to look for the problem. This state-of-the-art equipment exceeds old equipment in performance, especially in keeping the number of incorrect readings to a minimum because of reduced human error.

The machines test for fat and protein with the added capacity to test for solids-not-fat in the future.

A somatic cell counter is also installed at each station. Calibrations are constantly monitored, and a strict preventative maintenance program has kept errors and down equipment time to a minimum.

"I just want to emphasize that for us quality is the number one issue," Scibilia said, "We do 3.3 million samples each year, and we have a very efficient operation."

While the lab has not done outside work for private companies or milk cooperatives, it has the Pennsylvania license to do so. The original cost of equipment is high (about \$200,000 per machine), but the cost of maintenance and calibration is also expensive. Since small operations may not have enough samples to justify these costs or to keep their labs running full-time, future outside work for the Pennsylvania lab may be sought.

With new equipment and excellent quality control, dairymen can be assured that their test results are authentic, and the information from these results is reliable.



Linda Scibilia is lab manager and says quality is the lab's number one issue.



The Pennsylvania DHIA milk testing lab has maintained a 100 percent quality control record for more than 15 successive months. Shown in the photo are several of the four working stations that have state-of-the-art testing equipment.

What's Changed And What's Better In "Monthly Report"?

PA DHIA's previous article summarized the modifications to your reports. As this article will attempt to explain several changes to the Monthly Lactation Report. In the next few weeks I will try to specifically direct articles on other changes. The Monthly Report is currently the red, white and blue report that you receive in your orange envelope. The current size 10"x12.5" Herd Summary I (blue) and the Reproductive Management Report (brown and yellow) will also be changing to 8.5"x11" white, three hole punch paper.

The color and size on these reports are changing to a more manageable size which makes the reports more convenient to handle and to keep. Changes in the reports will be begin on November 1, 1992 along with a smaller envelope and some column changes on the Monthly Lactation Report.

Beginning with the Monthly Lactation Report and going across the top - the first change will be in the area under "Test Day Data". The first column in this section marked "Milk Lbs" will remain the same; the next two columns, which at this time looks like this:

| Test Day Data | |
|---------------|-----|
| % | Lbs |
| Fat | Fat |
| Pro | Pro |

Test Data will change to accommodate SNF and will be formatted a little differently. It will look like this:

| Test Day Data | | |
|---------------|------|------|
| Fat | Pro | SNF |
| % | % | % |
| Lbs. | Lbs. | Lbs. |

Each different (part of the milk) has its own column in this set up and each entity lists its percentage and pounds in the same column as opposed to having percentages of both fat and protein and pounds of both fat and protein listed together in the same column. All other columns in "Test Day Data" will remain the same.

Now, we will move on to the column under the next large sec-

tion of data: "Lactation to Date". Once again, look over at the columns for "% Fat and Pro" and "Lbs Fat and Pro"; these columns will change in exactly the same way as in the "Test Day Data" section to include SNF and each (part) Fat, Pro, SNF will have its own column with percentages and pounds listed under it. Also, in this same way, the % fat pro, and lbs fat, lbs pro columns under the calf sire/calf Id-Est. 305/ME will change to three columns to accommodate SNF.

Other than the change in size, color, three holes versus the multi holes, and the changes to accommodate the new SNF column, the remaining part of the form will remain the same.

The back of the Monthly Lactation Report will have some

changes. It will include for your convenience some additional charts and management information. The most important is that the SCC conversion chart will print on this report (Monthly Lactation Report) instead of the back of the Herd Summary I. This change was made to accommodate the herds that might elect to not getting the Herd Summary I but are on the Somatic Cell County option. The herds have more than one Monthly Lactation Report sheet (more than 20 cows) will print individual cow test any data and lactation to date data on both sides following the first page. The first page of the Monthly Lactation Report will print the explanation data.

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Average Farm Feed Costs For Handy Reference

Corn, No. 2y - 2.48 BU. 4.44 CWT.
Wheat, No. 2 - 3.07 BU. 5.13 CWT.
Barley, No. 3 - 1.66 BU. 3.55 CWT.
Oats, No. 2 - 1.45 BU. 4.52 CWT.

Soybeans, No. 1 - 5.15 BU. 8.60 CWT.
Ear Corn - 72.80 BU. 3.64 CWT.
Alfalfa Hay - 102.50 TON 5.13 CWT.
Mixed Hay - 93.19 TON 4.66 CWT.
Timothy Hay - 118.80 TON 5.94 CWT.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR PA DHIA

- Oct 28 Elk County Annual Banquet
- Nov 2 Centre County Fall Update, Penns Valley Ag Room
- Nov 4 Chester County Annual Banquet
- Nov 4 Washington County Annual Banquet
- Nov 5 Blair County Annual Banquet
- Nov 6 Warren County Annual Banquet
- Nov 9 Northampton County Annual Banquet
- Nov 10 Bedford County Annual Banquet
- Nov 10 Franklin County Annual Banquet
- Nov 10 Snyder County Annual Banquet
- Nov 10 Susquehanna County Annual Banquet
- Nov 10 - 11 North East Caucus Meeting of National DHIA, Mid-East DHIC
- Nov 11 - 12 Bradford County Annual Banquet
- Nov 12 Cumberland County Annual Banquet
- Nov 12 Fulton County Annual Banquet
- Nov 12 Luzerne County Annual Banquet
- Nov 12 Potter County Annual Banquet
- Nov 13 Bucks County Annual Banquet
- Nov 13 Fayette County Annual Banquet
- Nov 13 Union County Annual Banquet
- Nov 14 Huntingdon County Annual Banquet
- Nov 14 Perry County Annual Banquet
- Nov 16 Lycoming County Annual Banquet
- Nov 17 Erie County Annual Banquet
- Nov 17 Wayne County Annual Banquet
- Nov 17 York County Annual Banquet
- Nov 19 Cambria County Annual Banquet
- Nov 21 Lackawanna County Annual Banquet
- Nov 24 Lebanon County Annual Banquet
- Nov 26 Service Center Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday
- Dec 3 Beaver County Annual Banquet
- Dec 7 Centre County Annual Banquet
- Dec 8 Berks County Annual Banquet
- Dec 8 Lancaster County Annual Banquet
- Dec 9 Jefferson County Annual Banquet
- Dec 10 Clinton County Annual Banquet
- Dec 10 Juniata County Annual Banquet
- Dec 17 Armstrong County Annual Banquet
- Dec 18 Indiana County Annual Banquet
- Dec 25 Service Center Closed - Christmas Holiday
- 1993
- Jan 6 - 7 PA DHIA State Board of Directors
- Jan 18 Crawford County Annual Banquet
- Jan 26 Central District Family House, Mifflintown 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM
- Feb 8 Southeast District, Berks Co. Ag. Center, Leesport 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM
- Feb 10 Southwest District, Ramada Inn, Somerset 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM
- Feb 11 Northwest District, Venango Co. 4-H Franklin 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM
- Feb 12 Northeast District, Towanda Elks Club, Towanda 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM
- Mar 19 - 20 1993 Annual Meeting Radisson Hotel, Monroeville, PA
(* All members are invited to attend)