



National DHIA Report

Major Opportunities Face Delegates at Fall Caucuses

COLUMBUS, OH — The responsibility and authority of state DHIA's that serve herds across state borders will be the major topic at the 1992 caucuses. The Lancaster, Pennsylvania situation provided a great deal of momentum behind this issue, and many state DHIA's are seeking clarification on DHIA policy and bylaws.

"We have a major opportunity to modify, and possibly improve, the structure of an organization that supports increased profitability of half the nation's producers," states Mike Quesnell, National DHIA President. "We should not take this opportunity lightly."

Current policies allow some flexibility in providing service across state lines, but the bylaws assign final responsibility within geographic boundaries to the state DHIA recognized by National DHIA. The National DHIA Board approved a program to present the background to caucus participants, generate input, then move the recommendations through the policy process that reaches the delegates at the 1993 Annual Meeting.

Other topics at the caucuses include: Quality Certification, 1993 budget, research issues, new testing plans, DHIA Services, Inc., and the Value of Records. **Discussions Taking Place with Allied Cooperators**

Following exhaustive discussions over the last few years, the Value of Records issue has become noticeably quieter. Is the issue dead or is this the calm before the storm? "Neither," cites Mike Quesnell, National DHIA president. "With new leadership in the president and CEO positions, we needed a period of time to establish our personal relationships and take stock of the situation."

DHIA and AI leaders have had numerous conversations since the NAAB meeting in July. The outcome of these discussions and input from all segments of the industry was to form a working group to evaluate new procedures and relationships that would result in an increase in genetic progress, and in the farm use of genetic information.

"Our hope is the working group could provide a road map, with benefits for today and tomorrow's dairy producers," explains Phil Dukas, CEO. "The development of the road map should be done in a non-political setting. The decision to use or not to use the road map must be made at the policy level."

The National Association of Animal Breeders and National DHIA have approved the working group. The membership and sche-

dule have not been released.

Board Approves New Official NCDHIP Testing Plans

Three new official plans will be available to dairy producers after January 1, 1993, as soon as field and computing service procedures required for these plans are implemented.

The new testing plans are Official DHI-AM-PM (verified by bulk tank), Official DHI-Milk Only and Official DHIA Milk Only AM-PM. In order for a herd to participate in one of these testing plans, all the field and computing procedures for that specific testing plan must be followed.

Bulk tank verification is offered as an alternative to the timer in the AM-PM programs. This procedure is based on extensive data collected under the Innovative Testing Plans programs. Strict limits are in place, triggering management follow-up procedures if abnormalities are observed.

Until January 1, 1994, herds can utilize these three testing plans as Innovative Testing Plans (ITP). After this date, the ITP category ceases for these three above mentioned testing plans.

Herds participating in any of these plans (as an ITP) on January 1, 1994, will have four choices:

- They can continue to participate in the same testing plan, as an Official NCDHIP Testing Plan, if the servicing DHIA and DRPC have implemented the required procedures:

- They can seek service through another DHIA and/or DRPC if their present one(s) have not implemented the procedures required:

- They can change to another official testing plan; or

- They can change to a management record plan, for example, Supervised Sampling AM-PM. **New Dues Level to Strengthen Association**

The National DHIA Board voted to raise dues one cent per cow per year to enable the association to meet a number of key objectives. In addition, a membership fee will be employed for the first time to offset some of the per cow dues.

"Reserves are very low after years of extremely tight budgets," cites chief executive officer, Dukas. "Over half of the modest increase will go to the bottom line simply because we need a degree of financial security in a DHIA System serving 56,000 members." Other reasons for the increase include increased non-director involvement and reduced cow numbers. Salaries are reduced from the 1992 budget levels.

The membership fee for each state DHIA and DRPC will replace a portion of the one-cent increase. This new structure reflects the action taken by the

delegates at the annual meeting.

Also, management accounting is being charged to a departmental basis to allow the board and delegates to assess the cost/benefit of various association functions, as opposed to a basic review of line items.

DHIA Services, Inc. Continues to Raise Service Levels to Industry

The service levels of the Tru-Test project, which supplies meters to the DHIA industry, are continuing to increase. Three new models were released earlier this year to support the changing needs of the dairy management support industry. In addition, inventory levels and forecasting systems have been revised to virtually eliminate out-of-stock conditions.

Tim Crawley, in field support, and David Bressette, internal operations, work together to identify opportunities to improve DHIA member satisfaction and reduce the number of headaches associated with keeping the large base of DHIA meters at a high level of accuracy. Their success is reflected in the growing volume of business.

As a joint project, participating DHIA member organizations received a rebate in July 1992 due to the excellent sales volume and low operating expenses. The subsidiary's directors will meet in late October to review future distributions.

Extension Will Create Environment for 1993 Technology Symposium

Representatives from federal and state Extension programs will be integrating the 1993 Technology Symposium, the Extension Specialist workshop, and related trade show activities at the 1993 National DHIA Convention in Reno, scheduled for March 7-10.

Although the Technology Symposium has been in place for years, this is the first time that all related meetings have been coordinated under one environment linking the DHIA leadership to specialists and developers of new educational and management programs.

Dr. Basil Eastwood, USDA-Extension, is helping to establish the steering committees at this time.

A Special Welcome to New Faces in the Crowd

We want to devote some special space in this issue of our newsletter to welcome these new state managers to the DHIA System. You already may have had the opportunity to meet them in the past few months. They are: • Randy Gaebe North Dakota DHIA • George Gramling Mid-East DHIA • Laurie Lancaster Idaho DHIA • Raymon Nance Arkansas DHIA • Donna Stegeman North Dakota DHIA.

The best to each of you in your career. Welcome to the DHIA team!

DHIA Involved with International Direction of Electronic ID

National DHIA, in harmony with the (Milking) Equipment Manufacturers Association, is representing the U.S. to establish global standards for electronic identification of dairy cattle. This effort of the International Standards Organization (ISO) has produced a unified code structure, and is currently developing communication protocols.

The standards are essential to the viability of this technology since cattle carrying the tags must be read by all readers in use throughout the marketing channels. The three major firms involved in the technology are

Texas Instruments, NEDAP, and Destron/Anitech.

Three meetings have been held in Europe over the last year. The fourth, and possibly final meeting, will be held in the U.S. in January 1993 and will be hosted by National DHIA.

Call for Nominations for National DHIA Awards

Here's your opportunity to nominate DHIA leaders for national leadership awards. Winners will be honored at the 1993 National DHIA convention in Reno, March 5-7. Award categories include:

H. Victor Joachim Distinguished Leadership Award — honors a DHIA dairy producer and/or spouse who has held a leadership position in DHIA or the dairy industry.

National DHIA Outstanding Service Award — presented to a DHI manager, university worker or dairy industry person who has dedicated their career to DHI.

Martin A. Wilson Memorial Award — honors a person who is, or has been employed by, a state/regional DHI in a management position for at least five years and has been dedicated to improving and providing leadership to DHI.

Nomination forms will be mailed to state offices by November 15. All nominations must be mailed to the National DHIA offices by January 1, 1993.

Editor's Note: These news notes were published in the Fall issue of DHIA Communicator from National DHIA, Columbus, Ohio.

Penn State Condenses As Budget Shrinks

READING (Berks Co.) — The Berks Campus of The Pennsylvania State University may eventually become a four-year institution within the Penn State system, according to proposals being made next week.

The Pennsylvania State University, due to a 3 1/2 % state funding cut, has initiated a plan to reevaluate programs and campuses in order to consolidate and reallocate resources. The University Future Committee (UFC) was formed to examine the university as a whole and make recommendations to the president regarding possible cuts and reallocations.

The UFC, in a report to be released Monday, will make recommendations that Berks Campus become regionalized with the Allentown and Schuylkill campuses in an effort to cut administrative costs and combine resources. This is just one of many proposed changes to restructure the Commonwealth Education System (CES) which consists of 18 commonwealth campuses throughout the state.

The regionalization process would take a number of years to complete. "Each stage could take a year or two, with total restructuring by the year 2000," said Dr. Frederick H. Gaige, Berks Campus executive officer. "This is all subject to approval."

The regionalization of commonwealth campus would reduce administrative and other costs. This, along with combining or eliminating programs that are under enrolled, would provide more money to enhance student and academic services.

Berks Campus would likely become the "hub" campus for the

region, due to the existing resources already in place. According to Gaige, "We have the land, housing facilities, and strong community support."

In the past five years, Berks Campus has more than doubled its land size, and greatly increased its student population. The campus now spreads over 240 acres, about half of which is, currently being used. This makes it the fourth largest Penn State campus in terms of land size.

Student housing has also been added to Berks Campus recently, housing almost 400 students on what had previously been an all commuter campus.

The campus receives strong community support as well. Approximately \$5.5 million, several buildings, and 131 acres of land have been given by the local community to develop the campus.

In turn, Berks Campus has made more resources and programs available to the community.

"The primary goal of the campus will continue to be service to the surrounding areas and providing a quality education close to home," said Kimberly Murphy, director of University Relations at Berks Campus.

The Future Committee, comprised of faculty, deans, staff and students, has gathered reports from each of the colleges and a number of administrative departments in addition to the CES.

Recommendations by the Future Committee must be approved by University President Joab Thomas before any changes may actually occur. A decision from Thomas is not expected until the spring.

Council Announces 1993 Keystone Cornucopia

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The Pennsylvania State Council of Farm Organizations announced that the annual Keystone Cornucopia legislative reception will be held at the Hilton in Harrisburg on February 22 between 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

"As always, our event will feature the products of Pennsylvania's number one industry," said State Council President Ernie Miller. "Agriculture is the biggest contributor to our State's economy, and the food industry is one of our biggest employers."

Tickets to the event are available for \$25 each. For tickets and information, contact Kris Stouwie at (717) 234-4311 or Mary Grimm at (717) 259-9657.

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IT DOES A
BODY GOOD.**

