

Pa.DHIA Announces Annual Meeting

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — Pennsylvania Dairy Herd Improvement Association's 5th annual meeting of the corporation is set for March 19-20, at the Radisson Hotel Pittsburgh in Monroeville.

The Radisson is only 20 minutes from the heart of Pittsburgh. directly located adjacent to the Monroeville Mall and Greater Pittsburgh Expo Mart.

All Pa. DHIA members are invited to this informational meeting.

Last year was the first time Pa. DHIA traveled outside of State College for the corporate meeting. Again this year we plan to travel to meet the members.

In March we had a favorable turnout of 250 attending members, state DHIA leadership, and representatives of the dairy industry. We anticipate this year's attendance will increase.

Fayette, Washington, and Westmoreland counties have agreed to host this year's Pa. DHIA Annual Meeting.

With the counties assistance, we plan to feature a trade show to take place parallel the meeting, a spouses' program offering creative craft ideas chaired by Mrs. Adam Derr, an awards banquet focusing on this year's success, a Hawaiian dinner theatre for your entertainment, and a meeting that will focus on sharing ideas and building commitment as an association.

The program allows for opportunities to learn more about the association, a chance for the association to understand your needs and concerns, a chance to recognize the past year's accomplishments and the coming year's goals, as well as a time to socialize with other members and representatives of the dairy industry.

Within the next month Pa. DHIA members should be receiving invitations to the 1993 Annual Meeting. Plan now to attend the meeting to represent your leadership ideas for the association.

Winter Workshops Scheduled

Pa. DHIA workshops are beginning to take place across the state. You need to decide if one of the dates and places will work into your schedule.

The workshops can be scheduled through your regional manager or technician, or by calling the state office at 1-800-344-8378.

The topics that seem to be the most popular are the Herd Summary II, Unbundling of the reports, Somatic Cell Count and Dairy Comp 305, and the laptop computers.

Members will be able to bring their own reports and ask questions. Winter workshops for members can help to appreciate the value of the data that's printed on each of the reports.

You will be able to keep abreast of the dates, times and places of the meeting and we would encourage you, if one is not scheduled in your area, to inqure about getting one scheduled.

The meetings have taken place as kitchen meetings to meetings in a particular location or even by circuits initiated by your technician. We are also able to do larger group settings. Most recently, we had a group in Lebanon County and was attended by DHIA members and non-members, plus feed consultants, veterinarians, farm credit personnel and other agribusiness

Everyone had a chance to ask questions pertaining to the reports and participate in seeing the various reports that can be generated using the laptops and Dairy Comp SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR PA DHIA

1993 PA DHIA Service Center Closed Jan 1

Bedford County Committee Meeting 8:00 PM Jan 4

Mercer County Annual Banquet 12:00 PM

Jan 5 Perry County Workshop
Jan 6 - 7 PA DHIA State Board of Directors Jan 18 Crawtord County Annual Banquet

Westinorland County Annual Banquet/Workshop 10.00AM Jan 21 Lancaster Unit of State DHIA Annual Banquet

Jan 26 Central District, Family House, Mitflintown 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM Schuvkill County Information Meeting/ Workshop 10:00 AM

Jan 27 Schuykill County Annual Banquet 12:00 PM

Bradford County ARIS/DC305 Workshop, Extension office Feb 2 Indiana County ARIS Workshop, Extension office 1:00PM - 3:00PM

Indiana County DC305 Workshop, Extension office 7:00PM - 9:30PM

Southeast District, Berks Co. Ag Center, Leesport 9:30AM - 3:00PM

Feb 10 Southwest District, Ramada Inn, Somerset 9:30AM - 3:00PM Feb 11 Northwest District, Venango Co. 4-H, Franklin 9:30AM - 3:00PM

Feb 12 Northeast District, Towarda Elks Club, Towarda 9:30AM - 3:00PM

Feb 16 Crawford County DC305 Workshop, Extension office 1:00PM - 3:00PM Feb 16 Crawford County ARIS Workshop, Extension office 7:30PM - 9:30PM

Feb 19 Franklin County ARIS Workshop, Extension office 12:30PM - 3:00PM Feb 24 Chester County DC305 Workshop, New Bolton, 1:00PM - 3:00PM

Feb 24 Chester County ARIS Workshop, New Bolton, 7:00PM - 9:00PM

Feb 25 Berks County ARIS Workshop, Ag Center, 1:00PM - 3,00PM

Feb 25 Berks County DC305 Workshop, Ag Center, 7.00PM - 9 00PM

Mar 3 Montour County DC305 Workshop, Extension office, 1.00PM - 3:00PM Mar 3 Montour County ARIS Workshop, Extension office, 7.30PM - 9:30PM

Mar 4 Centre County DC305 Workshop, Pleasant Gap Grange 1.00PM- 3.00PM

Centre County ARIS Workshop, Pleasant Gap Grange, 7:30PM - 9:30PM York County DC305 Workshop, Extension office, 1:00PM - 3.00PM

Mar 9 York County ARIS Workshop, Extension office, 7:00PM - 9:00PM Mar 11 Butler County ARIS Workshop, Extension office, 1:00PM - 3:00PM

Mar 11 Butler County DC305 Workshop, Extension office, 1 00PM - 3.00PM

Mar 19 - 20 1993 Annual Meeting, Radisson Hotel, Monroeville, PA

(* All members are invited to attend.)

Mar 19 - 20 PA DHIA State Board of Directors, Monroeville (tollowing the Annual Meeting)

Mar 25 Cumberland County DC305 Workshop, Extension office, 1,00PM - 3 00PM Mar 25 Cumberland County ARIS Workshop, Extension office, 7 00PM - 9:00PM

Apr 7 - 8 PA DHIA State Board of Directors, State College

July 7 - 8 PA DHIA State Board of Directors, State College

Oct 5 - 6 PA DHIA State Board of Directors. State College

305 software.

Cheese, On-Farm Prices Slump, Refunds Offer Help

The date will appear on this page in the DHIA calendar. Watch for the time and place nearest you, and, if you don't see one scheduled, please let us know.

Value Of Records **Position On Directors Clarify**

STATE COLLEGE — The Pennsylvania Dairy Herd Improvement Association Board of Directors recently clarified its position with regard to a controversial issue in the industry. The issue has been visible in the media during the past year and has become known as the value of records issue.

In stating its position, the Pennsylvania DHIA Board made it clear that they support the general

DHIA position that other organizations benefiting from the use of DHIA information should begin

members. This is an issue that ultimately affects all organizations using DHIA data, not just DHIA.

Contrary to some reports in the media, however, the Pennsylvania DHIA does not and has not advocated the withholding of Somatic Cell data from the USDA or from Al organizations in order to achieve a resolution to the value of records issue. PA DHIA has provided SCC data to the USDA for several years and agrees with those who say that progress for the dairy farmer through the use of somatic cell data in bull evaluations should not be held up on account of another issue like the value of records debate.

On the contrary, PA DHIA believes that members should benefit from their participation in the program in every possible way. To withhold SCC data from bull proofs would certainly hurt the DHIA member and other dairy producers as well, which is not in keeping with the association's mission to provide the best possible service for a reasonable price.

Only by keeping its sights firmly set on helping Pennsylvania DHIA members stay competitive through increasingly effective use of DHIA information can the association meet the challenges of the future.

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, - 2.31 BU. 4.13

Wheat, No. 2 - 3.28 BU. 5.48 CWT. Barley, No. 3 - 1.71 BU. 3.66

Oats, No. 2 - 1.52 BU. 4.74

Soybeans, No. 1 - 5.30 BU. 8.85 CWT.

New Ear Corn - 52.83 TON 2.69

Alfalfa Hay - 121.75 TON 6.09 Mixed Hay - 112.50 TON 5.63

Timothy Hay - 140.50 TON 6.01 CWT.

taking more responsibility for the cost of collecting and producing the information. With increasing pressure to allow more competition in the DHIA records business and more competition due to technology advances in computing, all DHIA's are hard pressed to find the resources needed to continue to provide high quality services to

TOM JURCHAK

Lackawanna Co. Extension Agent

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) - It could have been all that milk diverted from fluid to manufacturing use over the Thanksgiving holiday, or that the supply pipeline was full for Christmas, or cheese buyers wanted to just wait-and-see until the new year, or all of the above, but cheese prices slumped more than 4 cents on blocks and 3 cents on barrels on Dec. 4 at the National Cheese Exchange.

That was the largest drop in 10 weeks, but that's as far as they went. as no more change up to Dec. 11, however, with the support price at \$1.12 a pound for blocks, the new market price of \$1.20 puts it within the range of sales to Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC).

When the market price of butter, powder or cheese drops to 110 percent of the support price, CCC will accept bids for sales to the government. And that's what happened already with a Western processor selling over 98,000 pounds for the first block cheese purchase by CCC in 20 months.

There's good reason for a wait-and-see attitude from dealers. There's a lot of uncertainty.

For example, milk production is still up 3 percent in October; there is the uncertainly of how USDA will adjust butter-powder prices in January; also is the question of who will be the head of USDA next

There are other questions, such as, will there be a support price charge? What will be the effect of feed quality and prices on production? And finally, how fast will producers react to lower milk prices? Here They Come

Lower prices at the farm are here already, following the Minnesota-Wisconsin Price Series that started down in August.

With the help of cheese prices fading, the M-W dropped another 21 cents to \$11.84 for November. That's a loss of 75 cents in four months and 64 cents less than last November.

Even if cheese prices don't drop further, the M-W price would have to fall lower to make it profitable to sell cheese even to the CCC.

Uniform or blend prices to producers in all three federal orders in Pennsylvania dropped below a year ago in November for the first time since late in 1991.

In New York-New Jersey it was 38 cents; in Eastern Ohio-Western Pennsylvania it was 25 cents and in Middle Atlantic it was 41 cents.

New Class Price

Producers and handlers in the Middle Atlantic Order will see a new class of milk in their November pool. In the past, there were only two classes of milk: Class I for fluid use and Class II for everything else.

Then Class III was added to include only butter, powder and cheese. Now you have Class IIIa for butter and powder, and Class III for

Class III is calculated on the M-W price, but Class IIIa is determinted by local butter and powder prices and the cost of making skim

In the Northeast, only the New England and Middle Atlantic orders will have this new class.

In New England it will be \$11.06, and in the Middle Atlantic order it will be \$11.08. This compares to \$11.90 and \$11.92 for Class III milk in those marketing areas in November.

The change will affect the blend price depending on the amount of milk going to butter and powder that month. The change was requested to reflect the product price differences and was expected in all federal

Refunds Ready Don't forget to apply for your assessment refund as soon as you have your December milk check.

Your local ASCS office is ready with forms if you shipped less milk in 1992 than you did in 1991. It may be the best Christmas present you get in January.

Happy holiday.