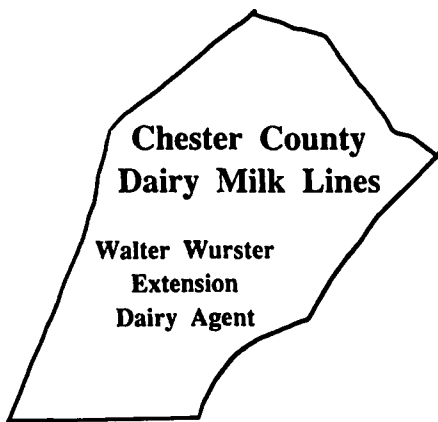


**Chester County DHIA - March 1993**  
Cows producing over 800 lbs. protein are:

Name	Breed	Age	Milk	Fat	Pro
Joseph & Sandra Lusby Minnie DH Lonehill Farm 63	H	3-04	32,384	1323	1019
Marilyn & Duane Hershey Dana Bear	H	4-08	32,159	1112	1034
Spring Aqua Farm 129	H	3-06	24,127	1064	856
Ardrossan Farms T Eyes	H	6-06	27,996	670	809
Merle J. King Isabel	A	2-04	24,638	1048	879
Chris & Ches Stoltzfus Anette Lucille	H	6-07	26,327	1004	832
Ridge Star Farm 9	H	7-04	29,488	1004	918
52	H	4-04	27,800	905	837
60	H	3-05	28,346	898	915
Tim & Phyllis Barlow Neva	H	3-05	26,360	1015	863
Kevin Stahlnecker 0150	H	2-11	24,199	918	821
Herman Stoltzfus Brandi	H	3-00	27,591	865	836
Dale Hostetter L-Bug	H	3-00	26,585	1062	848
Wilkinson Farm 1 2521	H	4-02	30,061	1016	917
2631	H	5-06	26,821	1267	874
Samuel G. Stoltzfus 14	H	6-06	27,926	989	836
Robert & Betty Peifer 62	H	5-03	26,897	905	807
69	H	7-08	27,646	1020	851
Breck-A-De Farm 88	H	7-07	31,500	1020	921
Pei-Valley Farm 62	H	4-10	27,084	1085	817
69	H	7-08	27,609	1018	849
	H	7-07	28,548	920	828



**Chester County Dairy Milk Lines**

Walter Wurster  
Extension  
Dairy Agent

**WALTER B. WURSTER  
Dairy Agent  
Chester Co. Extension**

WEST CHESTER (Chester Co.) — Property taxes and farming are not a good match.

Farmers in Chester County are nervous today when they hear words like millage increase, government and school budget increases, and especially, re-assessment.

Property taxes, which may have been fair in Colonial days when large land owners such as George Washington and Thomas Jefferson were the richest people in the community, no longer relate to a person's ability to pay.

It is time for a change in state law to align taxation to income rather than land ownership. If not, the beautiful farms that make Chester County a special place to live will gradually disappear, replaced by row after row of houses.

So, what should dairymen and other farmers be doing about this dilemma?

The best solution is to shift some of the tax burden from real estate to income as mentioned above, but that takes action by the state legislature.

Farmers should continue to petition their representatives for legislation to correct this problem. However, don't expect overnight action, because this topic has been debated for years with little or no results.

Another method to deal with the problem is to get some relief through either of two reduced assessment laws. Act 515, an open space program, has been used in Chester County for over 20 years to preserve open space by offering a lower assessment of land over 10 acres.

This translates into lower taxes, but there is still no limitation on millage increases by schools, townships and the county, so tax bills gradually creep up.

Act 319, a farmland assessment program, also offers reduced assessments on the land and is determined by a formula based on the productivity of the various soils on that farm. This program has not been widely used in Chester County because the agricultural values for the land have not been updated in 15 years. They are based on farm prices in the late 1970s which were considerably higher than today's prices.

County government is now considering new values based on current farm income and expenses for three major crops — corn, wheat and hay — at four different yield levels.

This concept is fairer than some present values because it relates the assessment to the quality of the soil on each farm. An acre of soil capable of only yielding 90 bushels of corn, 30 bushels of wheat, or 1.5 tons per acre of hay will have a lower assessment than an acre of Class I soil producing 150 bushels of corn, 50 bushels of wheat or 4 tons of hay.

The owners of lower class soils would pay less taxes because of the lower yields and lower income that could be realized from an acre of that soil.

Both Act 515 and Act 319 have some limitations, such as roll-back taxes that are due if the use of the land is changed to lessen the restrictions on splitting off lots or building on sections of the farm. Also, farm buildings and the farmhouse are not eligible for reduced assessments. However, until something better comes along, they partially help to reduce the tax burden.

Farmers need to continually urge state and county government officials to change the tax laws and

to use what help is presently available to ease the tax burden on real estate.

When reassessment takes place in Chester County, it is essential that Act 515 assessments be kept low and that new current farmland values be adopted for Act 319 so that farmers have a choice of the programs that are fair and that suit their operation.


Farmland assessment may be only a small piece in the puzzle to preserve agriculture in Chester County, but all opportunity must be explored. Let's hope state and county government takes the appropriate action soon.

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Chester County DHIA has some openings for new herds. With the many options available from Pa.DHIA today, there is a program to fit all types of dairies. Call Dan Miller at (215) 869-2604, for more information.  
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|--|--|
| <b>Lynnport</b><br>Kermit K. Kistler<br>Implement<br>215-298-2011      | <b>State College</b><br>Track N Trail<br>Honda<br>814-237-2581     |
| <b>Mansfield</b><br>Lake Country<br>Marine<br>717-662-2255             | <b>Towanda</b><br>Rolling Acres<br>717-265-3400                    |
| <b>Mars</b><br>M.R. Moody Sales<br>& Service<br>412-625-1935           | <b>Trevoise</b><br>Bromley Motorcycle<br>Sales<br>215-357-1534     |
| <b>Millerstown</b><br>R.E. Davidson &<br>Son<br>717-444-3670           | <b>Verona</b><br>Dirty Harry's<br>Dirt Bikes<br>412-828-2667       |
| <b>Mt. Bethel</b><br>Horn's Outdoor<br>Center<br>215-588-6614          | <b>Wapwallopen</b><br>Blue Ridge<br>Truck Parts<br>717-868-3402    |
| <b>Mt. Joy</b><br>J & H Cycle<br>Accessories<br>717-653-5672           | <b>York</b><br>The Workshop<br>717-846-5146                        |
| <b>Murrysville</b><br>Bentley's Yamaha<br>Suzuki<br>412-325-2344       | <b>NEW JERSEY<br/>DEALERS</b>                                      |
| <b>Parkerford</b><br>Leisure Equipment<br>Incorporated<br>215-495-7122 | <b>Bricktown</b><br>Kurt's Marine<br>Polaris<br>908-920-7669       |
| <b>Pittman</b><br>Schreffler<br>Equipment<br>717-648-1120              | <b>Elmer</b><br>Sam's Super<br>Service<br>609-358-3488             |
| <b>Punxsutawney</b><br>East American<br>Motors<br>814-938-4230         | <b>Ledgewood</b><br>Ledgewood<br>Kawasaki<br>201-584-6488          |
| <b>Reading</b><br>Ray's Motor<br>Service<br>215-582-2700               | <b>Pompton Plains</b><br>Kosco Harley-<br>Davidson<br>201-831-1700 |
| <b>Sharon</b><br>Doctor Jerry's<br>Cycle<br>412-981-7282               | <b>Somers Point</b><br>Waterfront Marina<br>609-926-1700           |
| <b>Smithton</b><br>Andy's Automotive<br>412-872-0700                   | <b>Vineland</b><br>Lilliston Polaris<br>609-691-2020               |
| <b>St. Mary's</b><br>Grotzinger<br>814-834-4917                        |  |



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**GLENN'S  
UDDERINGS**

By  
**Glenn A. Shirk**  
Extension  
Dairy  
Agent

guide for grouping and feeding cows. And, it indicates how the herd has responded to management and to its environment.

Many things affect cows' milk production from day to day, and from month to month, some of which are:

1. Days in milk;
2. Environment- housing and climatic conditions;
3. General care and management of the herd;
4. Feeds- kind, quality and availability;

5. Cow physiology and disorders - infections, injuries, reproductive status, etc.

How well is your herd doing this month compared to the last month or two, or compared to a year ago? Did a change in feed or a change in the feeding program have any effect on production? Was it beneficial to house the herd during the heat of summer? How much impact did tunnel ventilation have on summer milk production?

Average daily milk production per cow can help provide some answers to these questions. These figures are found on the Penna. DHIA Herd Summary II report, and on the Raleigh DHIA Herd

Summary Report, a portion of which is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. (Note to the editor: Table 1 is the enclosed Yearly Production and Mastitis Summary. Two identical tables are enclosed; one lighter and one darker. Choose the one most appropriate for your use.)

Most of us are very familiar with test-day average milk per cow for cows in milk. It shows what the milking herd actually produced on test day. However, it is NOT the best figure for evaluating or comparing the effect that feed, management, weather and the environment have on cows' average daily production because of the influence that days in milk

have on production. A more accurate figure to use is the standardized 150-day milk. It is an estimate of what cows actually produced, or will produce, at 150 days in milk. Thus, it helps to eliminate variations in average daily milk that are caused by days in milk. Let's compare data in Table 1 as an example.

Average test-day milk for the milking herd reached a high of 74.2 pounds per cow per day in December. Then, it slid downwards for six straight months, bottoming out at 57.8 pounds in June. This 16.4 pound drop is enough to catch anyone's attention and cause them to ask some serious ques-

(Turn to Page A35)

**YEARLY PRODUCTION AND MASTITIS SUMMARY**

DATE OF TEST	DAYS IN TEST PERIOD	NUMBER COWS IN HERD ON TEST DAY	TEST DAY AVERAGES (MILKING COWS)		STANDARDIZED 150 DAY MILK	TEST PERIOD PERSIST INDEX	TEST DAY AVERAGES (ALL COWS)				ROLLING YEARLY HERD AVERAGE		
			DAYS IN MILK	MILK			% IN MILK	MILK	% FAT	% PROT	MILK	FAT	PROT
MONTH DROPPED	31	124	156	51.7	52.1	93	80	39.2	3.9	2.7	20178	763	622
8-14-89	26	129	129	65.0	61.3	121	81	49.9	3.7	3.2	20083	762	620
9-17-89	34	127	129	67.8	63.9	103	82	53.4	3.9	3.1	20183	770	626
10-13-89	26	131	127	72.5	68.1	106	85	60.9	3.8	3.2	20269	777	632
11-12-89	30	133	137	72.4	69.8	100	86	60.9	4.1	3.1	20350	783	637
12-10-89	28	128	150	74.2	74.1	103	91	66.7	3.9	3.3	20397	788	641
1-12-90	33	127	163	73.2	76.1	100	92	66.9	4.0	3.2	20518	794	647
2-11-90	30	123	175	68.2	73.5	93	94	63.8	3.8	3.2	20504	793	648
3-19-90	36	123	194	67.9	77.8	100	93	62.4	3.8	3.0	20522	792	647
4-13-90	25	125	205	61.3	72.9	89	90	55.4	3.6	3.2	20653	797	649
5-19-90	36	124	204	62.3	73.8	101	77	47.7	3.8	3.0	20727	799	650
6-14-90	26	122	192	57.8	65.8	91	69	39.3	3.7	3.1	20622	793	646
7-17-90	33	122	180	58.6	64.2	100	69	38.4	3.9	3.0	20946	804	659
<b>AVERAGES</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>66.8</b>	<b>69.8</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>55.5</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.1</b>			

**GLENN A. SHIRK**  
Extension Dairy Agent  
Lancaster County, Pa.

**DHIA Standardized  
150-Day Milk**

Dairy farmers are anxious to learn how much milk their cows are averaging per day. They also want to know if production is going up or going down, and there are some good reasons why they want to know this. First of all, it helps to determine the size of their milk check. It also serves as a