


# FOCUS



Dixie L. Burris, Membership Development,  
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that often aren't properly guarded. "A PTO rotates at 9 or 16 times per second at full speed," Murphy says. "No one can react fast enough to pull away once caught in the revolving shaft. Stepping over PTO shafts makes accidents much more likely. Walk around tractors and wagons instead."

Unloading wagons have a combination of moving aprons, beaters, conveyors or augers and an assortment of chains and sprockets. "Keep all protective machinery shields in place," Murphy says. "To prevent getting snagged, wear comfortable but close-fitting clothing and keep long hair tied up or under a hat."

Never enter a self-unloading wagon or reach into an unloading chute to speed the unloading rate while the machine is running. "If it gets clogged, disengage the PTO and stop the tractor," Murphy says. "PTO's can accidentally slip into gear, so always stop the engine. Keep the unloading wagon's emergency shut-off device in good working condition. It could save your life."

As forage moves from the wagon into the silo blower hopper, it's carried by an auger or conveyor to the blower fan, which forces it into the silo. "Silo blower operators need to watch out for the PTO shaft, the exposed conveyor or auger and the blower fan blades," Murphy says.

Blower accidents are most likely when the machine plugs up. "If this happens, don't climb onto the hopper or try to force forage into the blower blades," Murphy says.

## How Does Your Herd Compare?

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — These data are calculated using information pulled from Pennsylvania DHIA's mainframe computer each week. It is a one-week summary representing approximately one-fourth of the herds on test, as they are tested monthly.

These data are valuable from a business management standpoint and can be used for comparing your operations to the averages from about 1,400 herds across the state.

DHIA Averages for all herds processed between 8/22/93 and 8/29/93

Number of Herds Processed	974
Number of Cows Processed	62,942
Number of Cows Per Herd	64.6
Milk Per Cow (Lbs)	18,471
%-Fat	3.60
Fat Per Cow (Lbs)	666
%-Protein	3.13
Protein Per Cow (Lbs)	578
Average Days in Milk Per Cow	317
*Value for CWT Milk(\$)	12.90
*Value for CWT Grain(\$)	7.48
*Value for CWT Hay(\$)	4.30
*Value for CWT Silage(\$)	1.53
*Value for Pasture Per Day(\$)	.28
*Value for Milk Per Cow Per Year(\$)	2,383
*Feed Consumed Per Cow Per Year(Lbs)	
A: Grain	7,376
B: Hay	2,194
C: Silage	14,830
D: Day Pasture	57
*Feed Cost Per Cow Per Year(\$)	
A: Grain	552
B: Hay	94
C: Silage	227
D: Pasture	16
*Total Feed Cost Per Cow Per Year(\$)	890
*Income Over Feed Costs Per Year(\$)	1,493
*Grain to Milk Ratio	1:2.5
*Feed Cost Per CWT Milk(\$)	4.82
Avg Level For 864 SCC Herds	396,160

\*Member generated figures

## Filling Silos Can Be Dangerous

RONALD L. HOSTETLER  
UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Few farm operations are as dangerous as filling a silo, says a farm safety expert in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

"This complex task combines raising heavy equipment and working in close quarters with powered machinery, extremely loud noise and deadly silo gases," says Dr. Dennis Murphy, professor of agricultural engineering. "It sounds like a potential disaster, but knowing how to handle these

hazards will let you fill your silo safely."

Preparation for silo filling includes raising the unloader to the top of the structure. "Do this on a calm, dry day to reduce the risk of slips and falls," Murphy says. "Make sure all cables, wires, pulleys and connections are anchored and working properly before you start."

"One person at ground level should raise the unloader. Another person should watch from the blower pipe platform, signaling if problems arise. Never enter the silo while the unloader is being raised or try to crawl out onto it after it is suspended. An unloader can easily crush you if it falls."

Moving machine parts pose the greatest risk during silo filling. Both self-unloading forage wagons and silo blowers are operated by power takeoff (PTO) shafts

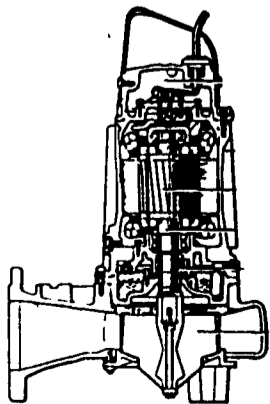
## Average Farm Feed Costs For Handy Reference

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 - 2.56 BU. 4.58 CWT.
- Wheat, No. 2 - 2.93 BU. 4.89 CWT.
- Barley, No. 3 - 1.61 BU. 3.44 CWT.
- Oats, No. 2 - 1.48 BU. 4.60 CWT.
- Soybeans, No. 1 - 6.74 BU. 11.26 CWT.
- Ear Corn - 65.91 TON 3.30 CWT.
- Alfalfa Hay - 100.00 TON 5.00 CWT.
- Mixed Hay - 95.50 TON 4.78 CWT.
- Timothy Hay - 98.25 TON 4.91 CWT.

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