

## Chester County Dairy Milk Lines

Walter Wurster  
Extension  
Dairy Agent

### Producing Quality Milk At The Farm

The dairy industry is under increasing pressure from consumers, nutrition activists, and government agencies to produce high-quality milk and dairy products. Actually, dairy farmers and dairy plants are supplying the market with the highest quality products ever produced. The question of quality is raised because milk is easily tested everyday and the monitoring tests are more sensitive than ever before. Consequently, milk becomes the standard of quality for all foods — what was the last time you heard of a lettuce or broccoli test? The facts are the tests on milk are going to continue; and, if dairy farmers want to maintain and increase their market, they will have to pass the tests with flying colors.

The main reason to produce quality milk should be pride in your product — after all, most dairymen and their families drink the milk right from the tank. Also, there is bonus money to be earned which is mostly pure profit for a little extra care. A dairy shipping a million pounds of milk per year can realize an additional \$2,000 per year if the bonus is 20¢/cwt. and the farm qualifies every month. In today's economy with tight profit margins, that money is a real plus.

Some key quality control areas that all dairy farmers should focus on are:

1. Standard Place County (SPC) - This bacteria test has been used for years to monitor the quality of milk produced on the farm. Most farmers have learned how to produce milk with a low SPC score. Cleanliness of milking equipment and rapid cooling of the milk are the main factors that lead to a low SPC. GOAL - under 10,000.

2. Somatic Cell Count (SCC) is usually a measure of infection in the cow as a result of mastitis. The SCC total may also increase during late lactation when a cow is producing a small amount of milk. Mastitis is a constant battle on some farms, but it can be controlled. This column will discuss those means in a future issue, but be aware that just one or two high cows can cause the herd average to skyrocket! It may be better to cull a chronic mastitis cow and/or dry up a high count late-lactation cow to get the herd SCC down. GOAL - under 200,000.

3. Preliminary Incubation County (PI Count) - This measure of quality has become more important to dairies in recent years as they try to extend the shelf life of milk in supermarkets. The time interval from when a cow is milked until the consumer drinks the last drop from a jug has increased dramatically, and they still expect the milk to maintain its quality to the end. A low PI Count indicates good sanitary practices on the farm. The test detects bacteria that continue to grow and

multiply in cold temperature causing milk to spoil even though it is properly refrigerated. The keys to having a low PI Count are proper cleaning of milk equipment, adequate hot water during the wash cycles and, most important, sanitize all milking equipment before each milking. GOAL -

under 30,000.

If you are having trouble meeting the levels to secure a bonus, work with your dairy sanitarian, your vet, and your Penn State Extension Agent to solve your problems. Remember, a little extra effort at milking time can result in

some extra bucks in your pocket!  
Chester County DHIA Annual Meeting and Banquet, Monday, November 15, 1993 - 7:00 p.m., West Fallowfield Christian School, Baked Ham Dinner — \$8.00, Tickets Available From DHIA Technicians And Directors.

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### Chester County DHIA - September 1993

Cows producing over 800 lbs. protein are:

Name	Breed	Age	Milk	Fat	Pro
<b>Walmoore Inc. # 1</b>					
654	H	7-00	27,465	929	839
234	H	4-00	28,210	990	827
<b>Marilyn &amp; Duane Hershey</b>					
Apeal	H	4-06	27,188	1009	856
Althea	H	3-09	29,168	692	862
<b>Merle J. King</b>					
Erma	H	7-01	29,406	1003	864
<b>Walmoore Inc. # 2</b>					
260	H	5-06	29,299	1051	900
<b>Dunwood Farm</b>					
Maxine	H	5-10	29,261	984	861
<b>Gideon Stoltzfus, Jr.</b>					
Sports	H	4-00	29,954	970	907
<b>Ridge Star Farm</b>					
88	H	5-10	27,859	917	866
<b>Tim &amp; Phyllis Barlow</b>					
Janet	H	10-09	28,242	920	832
Noel	H	5-09	29,330	840	879
Jelly	H	5-00	29,322	830	840
Noah	H	4-06	30,048	915	1003
<b>Walmoore Inc. # 3</b>					
308	H	5-07	26,885	1029	846
486	H	5-01	28,254	1076	846
<b>Charles J. Moore</b>					
Sibyl	H	3-01	28,571	999	879
<b>J. Harold Bare</b>					
69	H	5-00	28,384	952	875
6	H	3-09	24,434	974	820
30	H	3-06	23,746	853	808
<b>Joy-Wil Farms</b>					
66	H	7-04	24,925	935	849
94	H	5-04	24,790	795	870

(Turn to Page A42)

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