



# GLENN'S UDDERINGS

By  
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codes over 5 every month of the year. He had one "hot" cow, but he also had a herd problem.

With a few exceptions, heifers freshened with very little mastitis, but their cell counts rose as their lactations progressed. Chances are he had contagious mastitis that was being spread at milking time in spite of his good milking practices and a functional milking system.

Too many of his older cows freshened with mastitis. Some of them were probably chronic and carrying Staph infections over from the previous lactation and failed to respond to dry treatment. Another thing to be concerned about is the maternity area, but it did not appear to be a problem at this point. Sanitation in general was fairly good. Some of the high count cows need to be cultured to get a more accurate feel of the situation.

Herd average fat tests were very low (2.6 - 3.3) for about 10 consecutive months, and as I would expect, he had some problems with appetites, DA's, silent heats, retained placentas and cystic

cows, but he had very little ketosis.

Days open averaged 144, days to first service was 115 and the projected calving interval was over 14 months. He had a lot of stale cows and some of them were starting to get a little fleshy.

Milk production was off because of feeding, breeding and mastitis problems. If he had been on a base-surplus milk market, his calving season would have cycled out of his base building period.

Very quickly, I saw a need to refine the feeding program concentrating on forage and fiber intakes, ration balancing and pre-calving care of bred heifers and dry cows. With the feeding program corrected, a lot of the reproductive and metabolic problems will probably disappear. Even

though milk fat doesn't have much market value, it's still important to maintain a normal test of about 3.5 for Holsteins just to maintain normal rumen function, efficient digestion and good herd health.

As I mentioned earlier, I also saw a need to do some selective culturing to determine the nature of mastitis infections and to identify chronic cows, and cows that need to be treated, milked last, dried off or culled.

This is just one example of how I found the herd summary report very useful for helping to quickly and rather accurately analyze farm situations and troubleshoot herd problems.

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**An X-Ray Picture of the Herd**  
For months, I've been writing about the many ways your DHIA records can be used as a helpful management tool.

On a recent farm visit, I asked the dairyman if he was on DHIA, and if I could see his records. His DHIA Herd Summary report gave me an X-ray view of his herd, and in a manner of minutes I spotted a

number of problems that were hurting his cash flow.

Somatic cell counts averaged 621,800 for the year. He was at risk of losing his market, and he was losing a lot of milk as a result of udder damage. He had one "hot" cow that was responsible for over 30% of the cells in the bulk tank on last test day. About 40-50% of the cows had SCC

## Hershey School Helps Launch

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agricultural science program, the school has committed 500 acres of existing farmland, associated equipment, and a team of more than 20 employees to achieve the goals of increased science and interdisciplinary education through practical agricultural applications. Heading the NIYS will be Richard Hann, executive director, and Tom Helm, director. Hann is president-elect of Penn State's Agricultural Alumni Association and Helm is a nationally recognized leader in educational

program design and implementation.

The school, according to the office of communications, plans to share its model youth science/ag science program with other schools throughout the nation and to incorporate ideas from other schools and organizations who are developing program aspects of a similar nature.

At the ribbon-cutting ceremony, those present included various school leaders and local representatives.

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