

Estimated Daily Livestock Slaughter

Under Federal Inspection

April 20, 1994

	CATTLE	CALVES	HOGS	SHEEP
WEDNESDAY (EST)	125,000	5,000	350,000	20,000
WEEK AGO (EST)	117,000	5,000	350,000	20,000
YEAR AGO (EST)	121,000	5,000	353,000	20,000
WEEK TO DATE (EST)	370,000	14,000	989,000	57,000
SAME PD LT WK (EST)	350,000	14,000	999,000	53,000
SAME PD LT YR (ACT)	360,000	15,000	1,027,000	56,000

PREVIOUS DAY ESTIMATED TUESDAY STEER AND HEIFER 96,000, COW AND BULL 26,000.

***REVISION TUES. HOG SLAUGHTER...341,000.

Valley Stockyards

Athens, Pa.

Monday, April 18, 1994

Report supplied by auction

HOLSTEIN HEIFER CALVES 120.00-202.50.

VEAL CALVES 80.00-92.00.

VEALER BULL CALVES TO 152.50.

SLAUGHTER CALVES 67.50 AND DOWN.

GRASSERS & FEEDERS TO 79.00.

LAMBS, GOOD ONES TO 102.50, TOP 135.00.

SHEEP 15.00-31.00.

HOGS 200-250, 28.00-38.50.

SOWS 34.50-39.00.

BOARS 28.00-35.00.

PIGS 23.00-29.00.

HEIFERS TO 61.00.

NO GOOD STEERS.

FEEDER STEERS TO 79.00.

BULLS 43.00-57.50.

GOOD COWS 44.25-48.50.

COWS MEDIUM 37.00-43.75.

COWS POOR OR SMALL 37.00 AND DOWN.

CATTLE MARKET STEADY.

CALF MARKET STEADY.

HORSES TO 535.00.

PONIES NONE.

GOATS 17.50-62.50.

NIGHT DAIRY SALE APRIL 21, 7:30.

GOOD SET OF HEIFERS AND DAIRY COWS.

Indiana Livestock

Homer City, PA

Thursday, April 21, 1994

Report supplied by Auction

BEEF HEIFERS GOOD 74.00,

MEDIUM 71.00-73.00; COMMON

68.00-70.50. STEERS: GOOD 76.00,

MEDIUM 74.00-75.50, COMMON

70.00-73.75. COWS: GOOD 51.00,

MEDIUM 44.00-49.75, COMMON 43.00

DOWN.

BULLS BUTCHER 62.00, BOLOGNA

55.00-60.00.

FEEDERS. GOOD 300 LBS.

80.00-90.00, MEDIUM HEIFER 500LBS.

65.00-75.00, COMMON 65.00 DOWN.

CALVES: 85-115 LBS. (BULLS)

110.00-165.00, 85-115 LBS. (HFRS.)

190.00-215.00, 80 LBS. UNDER 70.00

DOWN, 120 LBS. OVER (VEAL) 250

LBS 117.00.

LAMBS: GOOD 75.00-90.00,

MEDIUM 65.00-75.00, COMMON

SHEEP 15.00-30.00.

HOGS. NO 1 240 LBS. 43.00, NO. 2

140-195 LBS. 40.00; 245 LBS. UP

39.00-42.00

SOWS: 38.00.

BOARS: 20.00.

GOATS: 20.00-55.00 PER HEAD.

Greencastle Livestock

Greencastle, Pa.

Friday, April 22, 1994

CATTLE: 232. HEIFERS: SELECT

FEW HOLSTEIN, STANDARD &

SELECT 51.50-56.25.

COWS: BREAKING UTILITY AND

COMMERCIAL 45.00-49.00, CUTTER

AND BONING UTILITY 46.00-50.00,

CANNER & LOW CUTTER 41.00-45.00,

SHELLS 38.00.

BULLS: YIELD GRADE 1 1230-2200

LBS. 57.25-67.00, FEW YIELD GRADE 2

940-1500 LBS. 48.00-55.00.

FEEDER CATTLE: HEIFERS FEW

M-1 370-680 LBS. 59.00-72.00, BULLS

FEW M-1 450-650 LBS. 62.00-72.00.

CALVES: 215. ONE CHOICE 100.00,

STANDARD & GOOD 75-110 LBS.

69.00-88.00, FEW UTILITY 60-80 LBS.

60.00-70.00.

FARM CALVES: NO. 1 HOLSTEIN

BULLS 90-130 LBS. 125.00-173.00, NO.

2 HOLSTEIN BULLS 80-120 LBS.

75.00-120.00, NO. 1 HOLSTEIN HEIFERS

85-120 LBS. 185.00-265.00, FEW

NO. 2 HOLSTEIN HEIFERS 70-115 LBS.

100.00-170.00, BEEF CROSS BULLS &

HEIFERS 75-120 LBS. 100.00-157.50.

HOGS: 10. ONE LOT US 1-3 230 LBS.

41.25.

SOWS: ONE 1-3 800 LBS. 37.50.

FEEDER PIGS 44.

SHEEP 5. SLAUGHTER SHEEP ONE

LOT YEARLING @ 39.00.

GOATS 2. LARGE @ 32.00.

Jersey Shore Livestock Market, Inc.

Auction every Thursday

at 4:00 p.m.

Jersey Shore, Pa.

Report supplied by Auction

Thursday, April 21, 1994

RETURN TO FARM CALF

120.00-225.00.

GOOD VEAL: 70.00-119.00.

COMMON VEAL: 25.00-69.00.

SELECT STEERS: 65.00-70.00.

COMMON STEERS: 61.00-64.00.

COMMERCIAL COWS: 47.00-52.00.

CANNERS-CUTTERS: 43.00-50.00.

SHELLS: 32.00-42.00.

SELECT HEIFERS: 65.00-69.00.

COMMON HEIFERS: 52.00-64.00.

GOOD FEEDERS: 70.00-85.00.

COMMON FEEDERS: 48.00-69.00.

BULLS: 54.00-58.00.

HEAVY HOGS: 36.00-37.00.

Can You Afford To Quit DHIA?

GEORGE F.W. HAENLEIN
Extension Dairy Specialist
University of Delaware

NEWARK, Del. — Maybe you get tired of the inconvenience, the added expense, the new and stricter national regulations, even the push for conversion to electronics that are part of DHIA, particularly the new DHIA.

You wish you could just enjoy milking your cows or goats in peace, keeping a simple wall chart record for each, thus removing yourself from the competitiveness.

It would be cheaper, too, you think. No longer would you have to pay the tester or put up with the delays. Never again would you be hounded by all those questions: When did you breed which cow to what sire? What are numbers of the sire, the cow, the cow's dam? When did you dry off that cow? How much silage, hay and grain do you feed to each? And so on.

Maybe your bank doesn't require you to keep official DHIA records for your mortgage and you don't sell young sires, heifers or embryos from high-record cows with fancy pedigrees.

Perhaps you don't care to use proven AI young sires, which you can get cheaper, but only if you are on DHIA. And maybe you are called on by effective sales reps from milking-machine companies who convince you that their new electronic systems give you everything DHIA offers in records except the official label.

If these "maybe" circumstances describe your situation, then you are a good candidate for thinking: "let's quit DHIA; it'll be easier and cheaper."

You aren't alone. You have company. DHIA has been part of U.S. dairying for 85 years, and though it includes a few more cows every year, it never has covered more than half of all dairy cows in all states. In fact, every year a good number of dairy farmers quit, and the number is barely made up by new participants.

Why?

A new study (Journal of Dairy Science, 77:1994; 1141-1145) from a Midwestern state examined reasons for 148 herd owners quit-

ting DHIA during the last two years.

On profile, the discontinued herds were slightly smaller in herd size and slightly lower in average herd production than the herds continuing on DHIA.

Among four major management areas for using DHIA — culling, mastitis, feeding, estrus — only culling seemed a strong reason for being on DHIA, according to those who discontinued DHIA.

Maybe these herds used bulls instead of AI, even though other studies in that region on the use of AI have demonstrated a significant superiority of between 800 to 1,100 pounds milk per cow per year for herds on AI.

Or maybe they had little mastitis and mainly fed pasture and free choice roughage.

Farmers gave several reasons for quitting DHIA. One-quarter sold the herd; one-eighth replaced DHIA with a new electronic private system and one-eighth went back to hand-written records; one quarter didn't like the tester or the lab (half didn't like the computer center); and one-quarter quit because of cost, despite the fact that another Midwest study had shown that DHIA herds gave 1,800 pounds more milk on average than non-DHIA herds.

What do Delaware records show? Last year we had more cows on record than in any previous year. There were also fewer herds than ever, down from 94 herds 30 years ago to half that. The herd size, however, is the largest ever — 135 cows now, compared to an average 45 cows then.

And while we have made great strides every year for higher and higher milk production averages per cow per herd, we still have tremendous variation in production levels and management parameters. This indicates that some dairy farmers make better use of their records than others, assuming that higher milk production means higher profits.

DHIA management data reveal where and why differences occur in milk production level.

We have repeatedly demonstrated that higher milk levels per cow under prevailing feed prices mean more profit per cow on average, regardless of breed (especially when other DHIA data are considered), and these are warning lights. I will name only six.

No. 1: If a Holstein cow or Swiss goat is testing less than 3.5 percent milk fat (other breeds are correspondingly higher), this is a signal from her DHIA records that you are feeding her too much grain in proportion to roughage and insufficient levels and length of fiber.

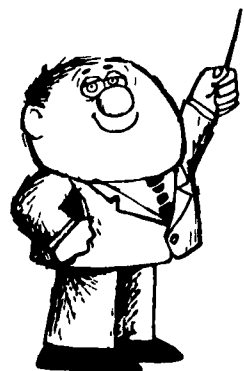
Grain should not exceed 60 percent of dry matter of the total daily ration, and fiber should not be less than 17 percent in the total daily ration with a greater amount longer than 1 inch.

You will not only lose money from low testing milk, you will soon have veterinary problems from excess grain feeding, such as acidosis, enterotoxemia, parakeratosis, displaced abomasum, laminitis, etc.

No. 2: If a Holstein or Swiss goat is testing less than 3.2 percent protein during the first four months after lactation begins, you aren't feeding her enough energy to make up for her high milk production demands, thus she is cutting back on her reproduction, coming into only silent estrus or not at all. She is underfed in energy, and you will be losing money because your animals won't conceive again in time. DHIA records could have helped you prevent this; besides, you are getting less money for your milk because of lower proteins-solids contents.

No. 3: If your herd average days in milk is much above 150 days that's a warning that your animals aren't conceiving back in time. You have a major number of your milkers beyond the peak of lactation in the later stages of lactation. When they milk less than they should, they cost more to maintain. Also somatic cell levels tend to go up with later stages of lactation, even when there is no mastitis infection, not even subclinical. And you'll have less than one calf per year from each cow, the mini-

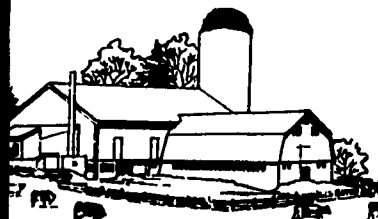
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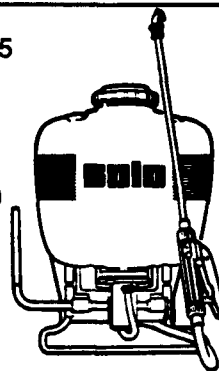
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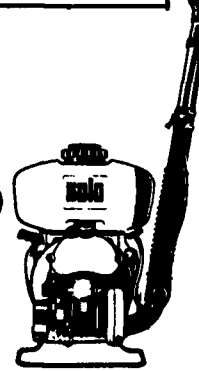
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