

# Farm Calendar

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## Monday, June 20

PennAg Industries Annual Grain Meeting, Eden Resort Inn, Lancaster, 6 p.m.

Pa. Rivers Conference, Harrisburg Hilton, thru June 22.

4-H Ambassador Conference, University Park, thru June 22.

Five-County 4-H Camp, Camp Blue Diamond, Petersburg, thru June 23.

Lancaster County pesticide container recycling, G&G Feed and Supply, Manheim, also July 18, Aug. 17, and Nov. 4.

## Tuesday, June 21 Summer Begins

Schnecksville Community Fair, Schnecksville, thru June 25.

Lancaster County pesticide container recycling, Adams County Nursery, also July 19, Aug. 19, and Oct. 11.

Grain Crop Field Day, Landisville Research Center, 1 p.m.-5 p.m.

## Wednesday, June 22

Crop Residue Management Program, Hoss' Steak and Seafood House, York, 5 p.m.

## Thursday, June 23

Butler County Holstein twilight meeting, 7 p.m.

Crop Residue Management Program, York extension office, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Pesticide container recycling, Mountain View Reclamation, Greencastle, repeats July 28, Aug. 25, and Nov. 10.

## Friday, June 24

117th AGA annual meeting, Bur-

lington, Vt.

## Saturday, June 25

Pa. Junior Holstein Association Convention, Pittsburgh, thru June 28.

Beaver-Lawrence Dairy Princess Pageant and Ice Cream Social, Westfield Grange, 7:30 p.m.

14th annual Hickory Ridge Antique Farm Show, Horace Potter Residence, Milford, Del., thru June 26.

## Sunday, June 26

## Monday, June 27

Pa. Junior Judging Schools, Butler and Franklin counties, thru June 30.

## Tuesday, June 28

Implementing On-Farm Composting Interagency Conference and Tour, Penn State Harrisburg, Middletown, thru June 29.

Pesticide recycling program, Oyl-er's Orchard, Gettysburg, also July 26, Aug. 23, Nov. 8.

## Wednesday, June 29

Junior Judging School, Franklin County, June 30.

## Thursday, June 30

## Friday, July 1

5-Acre Corn Club contest deadline.

Lancaster County pesticide container recycling, Landis Spraying Service, Strasburg, repeats Aug. 3 and Sept. 2.

## Saturday, July 2

Kutztown Folk Festival, Folk Festival Grounds, thru July 10.

# Are The Cows Eating Enough?

Lisa A. Holden  
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Dairy And Animal Science  
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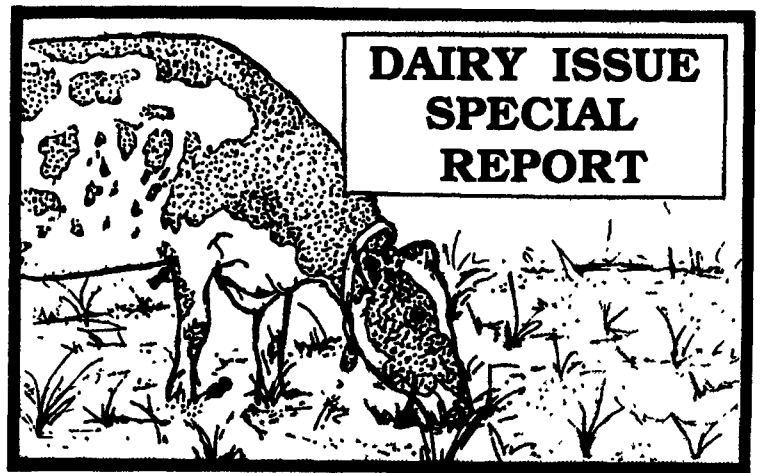
Spring is one of the busiest times of the year. It's easy to be swept away by all the chores to be done. Stop a minute and ask yourself, "Are the cows eating enough?"

Cows with low dry matter intake (DMI) may be down in milk, may be losing too much condition, and may develop breeding or health problems later. Adequate DMI is important for all animals and is especially important for high producing cows.

A cow's DM requirements are determined by her body weight, level of milk production, stage of lactation, body condition, and energy expenditures. During early lactation, the cow's DMI does not meet her DM requirements, particularly with high producing cows. At all other times, feeding management mostly determines whether the cow's DM requirements are met.

Environmental conditions, such as hot temperatures, often affect the cow's DMI, but many of the factors that affect DMI are more manageable than the weather. The type and quality of feed available, particularly forages, influence the cow's DMI. Lower quality forages (high in NDF) can cause a reduction in DMI.

Wet feed ingredients can cause a reduction in DMI, particularly fermented ingredients such as silages. Since the moisture content of sil-



age affects its fermentative properties, silages too high in moisture may be lower in quality than properly fermented silage.

During spring, when sources of forage may be changing or silos are being emptied, changes in moisture or forage quality can have a big impact on DMI. The availability and quality of water also impact DMI. If water is not available when cows are turned out on pasture or exercise lots, DMI may be reduced. If water quality is poor, either chronically or because of an acute situation related to spring rains, cows may respond by eating less DM.

Finally, facilities can impact the cow's ability to obtain enough DM to meet requirements. Overcrowding at the bunk leads to decreased DMI, particularly for smaller or more timid cows. Changes in housing or milking routines that the amount of time cows have

access to feed may also affect DMI.

Stalls or feed bunks that are outdated or poorly designed may affect the cow's ability to reach feed or eat comfortably, thereby influencing DMI. Making high quality feed available to the cow in a comfortable environment with access to clean water will help to ensure that adequate DM is being consumed.

The physical and physiological forces within the cow that govern DMI are complex and somewhat fixed. In early lactation, these forces significantly impact DMI, but optimizing DMI is always a good goal.

The external forces governing DMI — feeding management — are more controllable. So this spring, amidst all the uncontrollable weather and seasonal changes, amidst all the busy hours and hurried tasks, ask yourself, are the cows eating enough?

## WHEN SELECTING SOYBEANS. . .

**Don't Settle For an Old "Hound" When You Can Buy  
TOP DOG!**

- **CX 415**  
Early Group IV
- **CX 411**  
Early Group IV 
- **CX 404**  
Early Group IV 
- **CX 399**  
Late Group III 
- **CX 366**  
Mid-Group III
- **CX 329**  
Early Group III - Double Crop Bean



Just because bean season is upon us and you need soybeans quickly, don't settle for the competitors 2nd or 3rd rate "Old Hound" DEKALB DEALERS STILL HAVE A GOOD SUPPLY of their TOP VARIETIES!

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