


# FOCUS



**dhia**  
Dairy Herd Improvement Association

Dixie L. Burris, Membership Development,  
Call 1-800-DHIA-TEXT for information.  
Pennsylvania Dairy Herd Improvement Association  
DHIA Service Center, Orchard Road, University Park, PA 16802

lent quality control, dairymen can be assured that their test results are authentic, and that the information derived from those results is reliable.

I have assumed the laboratory manager position March 23 and feel extremely proud to work with such an excellent staff. Our group of new employees have been in place since April 1 and have managed to bring their efficiency up within the first month, with practically no noticeable difference in turnaround time.

### Visit Us

Come to the 1994 Ag Progress Days August 16, 17, and 18 at Rockspring, and visit the Pa.DHIA booth.

We can get your awareness up and increase your profits, come see us in the Penn State University Agricultural Science Tent. The booth is located, inside the entrance and to the left.

We will have staff available to answer questions on all aspects of Pa.DHIA. We also have some exciting news about our Heifer Management Program to share with you.

On-farm computer systems also seem to be a highlight of many dairy farms these days. We can help answer some questions.

Some of our computer people, along with field, lab, and membership staff will be at the tent. Stop with any question, or call anytime at 1-800-344-8378.

### Meeting Set

The annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Dairy Herd Improvement Association (Pa.DHIA) has been set for March 10, 1995.

According to a news release, further details are to be announced later and will appear here and in members' month report envelopes, along with information about district meetings.

Also, county annual banquets are also in the planning stages. Check with the local committees and get involved. Make this year the best.

### 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

### Seven Nominations Sought For PDPP Board

**HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)** — The Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program is seeking nominations for its Commodity Marketing Board.

The purpose of the program is to promote the consumption of milk and other dairy products and to facilitate appropriate research. The Commodity Marketing Board has the authority and responsibility to manage the program and disburse marketing funds. Currently, 21 members serve on the board, and the terms of seven members are scheduled to expire on Sept. 30.

Board members will be selected by State Agriculture Secretary Boyd E. Wolff from nominations made by producers and dairy-related organizations, associations, and cooperatives representing dairy farmers throughout Pennsylvania.

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 - 2.67 bu. 4.78 cwt.
- Wheat, No. 2 - 3.00 bu. 5.01 cwt.
- Barley, No. 3 - 1.73 bu. 3.70 cwt.
- Oats, No. 2 - 1.41 bu. 4.40 cwt.
- Soybeans, No. 1 - 5.80 bu. 9.69 cwt.
- Ear Corn 66.81 ton 3.34 cwt.
- Alfalfa Hay - 105.00 ton 5.25 cwt.
- Mixed Hay - 103.13 ton 5.16 cwt.
- Timothy Hay - 104.88 ton 5.24 cwt.

New appointees to the board will serve three-year terms. Board members are expected to attend regular board meetings and participate in other dairy-related functions.

Nominees must be active in the production of milk, including, but not limited to, representatives of milk cooperatives and farming associations, producer-handlers of milk or an independent dairy farm. In addition, the appointees are expected to contribute their dairy promotion assessment to the Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program.

The deadline for submitting nominations is August 26, 1994. Nominees' names and addresses should be submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Market Development, 2301 N. Cameron St., Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408.

**DIXIE BURRIS**  
Laboratory Manager  
STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — The Pennsylvania Dairy Herd Improvement Association laboratory has had changes.

It scored a 100 percent for quality certification and is one of the largest milk sample testing labs on the East Coast. It has also achieved the rare distinction of having 100 percent compliance on the quality control blind sample program.

The Pa.DHIA lab has four stations of testing equipment that have error-handling systems built into them. If, for some reason, the wrong information is obtained from a milk sample, the machine shuts itself down, and the computer tells the operator where to look for the problem.

This state-of-art equipment exceeds old equipment in performance, especially in keeping the number of incorrect readings to a minimum because of reduced human error.

The machines test for fat and protein, and have the added capability to test for solids-not-fat. A somatic cell counter is also installed at each station.

Calibrations are constantly monitored and a strict preventative

maintenance program has kept errors and down-equipment time to a minimum.

One thing that I consistently emphasize is quality. We do 3.3 million samples each year, and we have a very efficient operation.

One of our most recent changes was with personnel. We replaced all of our union employees with Pa.DHIA employees, and this changover has gone extremely well.

The Pa.DHIA employees are a group of people with a lot of expertise and many have had some experience working on farms.

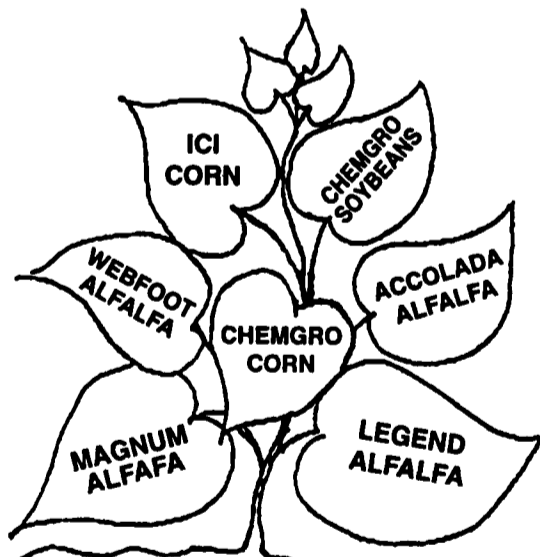
Cathy Haughout is one of our workers with a degree in biology. She had worked as a senior research aide at the Center for Mastitis Research, in the Department of Veterinary Science, at Penn State University.

Haughout currently monitors the quality control program in our laboratory here in State College, and is under my direction.

The Pa.DHIA lab is also licensed to do outside work for private companies or milk cooperatives. We currently work with Galikers Dairy and also do some work with MMI.

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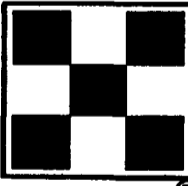


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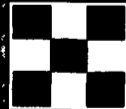


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