

FOCUS



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

How Does Your Herd Compare?

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — These data are calculated using information pulled from Pennsylvania DHIA's mainframe computer each week. It is a one-week summary representing approximately one-fourth of the herds on test, as they are tested monthly.

These data are valuable from a business management standpoint and can be used for comparing your operations to the averages from about one-fourth of the herds across the state.

DHIA Averages for all herds processed between 10/01/94 and 10/08/94

Number of Herds Processed	1,018
Number of Cows Processed	60,216
Number of Cows Per Herd	59.1
Milk Per Cow (Lbs)	18,450
%-Fat	3.71
Fat Per Cow (Lbs)	685
%-Protein	3.20
Protein Per Cow (Lbs)	590
Average Days in Milk Per Cow	318
*Value for CWT Milk(\$)	13.23
*Value for CWT Grain(\$)	8.36
*Value for CWT Hay(\$)	4.26
*Value for CWT Silage(\$)	1.54
*Value for Pasture Per Day(\$)	.29
*Value for Milk Per Cow Per Year(\$)	2,441
*Feed Consumed Per Cow Per Year(Lbs)	
A: Grain	6,849
B: Hay	2,209
C: Silage	14,980
D: Day Pasture	63
*Feed Cost Per Cow Per Year(\$)	
A: Grain	572
B: Hay	94

Advice For Potato Blight Management

Editor's note: Because of the weather conditions favorable to the growth of a potato blight fungus this past growing season, and because of the widespread affect the disease has had, special management practices should be considered by those handling potatoes

in order to eliminate as much as possible the return of the blight. Following a meeting late last month of producers, support agencies and governmental officials, the state government requested the U.S. secretary of agricultural to provide federal assistance for producers who experienced heavy losses this past year. The author of the following advice is the Penn State Extension professional who deals with such disease problems.

BARBARA CHRIST
Associate Professor

PSU Dept. Plant Pathology
STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — There are several practices that should be considered and followed when late blight is present:

- Make sure the vines are thoroughly killed before harvest.
- When killing vines, apply an appropriate protectant fungicide until the vines are dead.
- Harvest tubers when soils are not wet and the soil is not adhering to the tubers.
- If more than 1 percent of tubers have blight, grade into storage; tubers that are lightly infected are difficult to detect and grade out.
- Storage of potatoes with severe late blight is difficult. The storage temperature should be lowered more rapidly than normal. Temperatures above 50 degrees will allow the fungus and associated soft rot bacteria to continue rotting the potatoes.

The ideal temperature to store blighted tubers is in the range of 38 to 40 degrees. Also, good air circulation is a must. And further, keep the relative humidity below 85 percent. Blighted tubers should not be held any longer than necessary.

1995 Seed Potatoes

Consider the source of seed potatoes to avoid introducing the disease into fields.

Contact your seed grower to talk over the blight situation in their area and, if possible, visit their farm operation.

There will be seed that is reasonably clean and free of blight. Maine has not been as hard hit with blight this year and has a reasonable seed crop depending on the individual.

Do not plant seed from Maine adjacent to seed from North Dakota.

New York seed growers may also have a reasonable crop of seed potatoes.

Not all of Pennsylvania seed is lost or full of blight. There may be a good seed source within our state, but the answers are not completely in yet.

Management For 1995

There are several management practices that should be followed to minimize the risk of heavy blight losses.

- Plant only certified seed.
- Remove all cull piles. Individual producers have buried or composted the cull tubers.
- Reduce volunteer plants. Expose tubers in order to freeze.
- Scout fields or scout areas where there may be volunteer plants.
- Use protectant fungicides.
- Ridomil is only effective towards sensitive strains of blight and only effective when applied early, before late blight is established.

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 last week's average 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 - 2.54 bu. 4.55 cwt.
Wheat, No. 2 - 3.34 bu. 5.58 cwt.
Barley, No. 3 - 1.70 bu. 3.64 cwt.
Oats, No. 2 - 1.43 bu. 4.46 cwt.
Soybeans, No. 1 - 5.47 bu. 9.13 cwt.
Ear Corn 68.13 ton 3.41 cwt.
Alfalfa Hay - 97.75 ton 4.89 cwt.
Mixed Hay - 92.50 ton 4.63 cwt.
Timothy Hay - 99.50 ton 4.98 cwt.

C: Silage	231
D: Pasture	18
*Total Feed Cost Per Cow Per Year(\$)	916
*Income Over Feed Costs Per Year(\$)	1,524
*Grain to Milk Ratio	1:2.6
*Feed Cost Per CWT Milk(\$)	4.97
Avg Level For 942 SCC Herds	376,005

*Member-generated figures

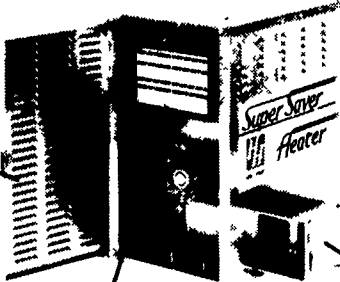
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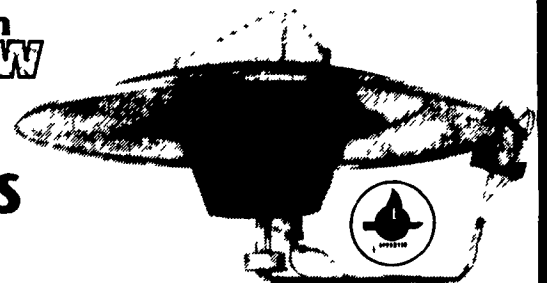
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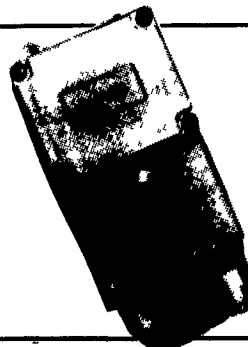
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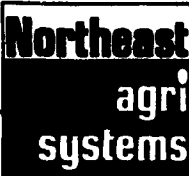
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