## Chester County Dairy Milk Lines

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WEST CHESTER (Chester Co.) — Penn State University presented a three-day teleconference via satellite in many Pennsylvania counties, including Chester County, in early February.

It was also picked up by several states in the Northeast and Midwest. Local extension agents coordinated the workshops and conducted 14 activity sessions over the three days.

It was an excellent program to educate farmers about the basics and current research in dairy nutrition.

A few of the highlights of the workshop were emphasized several times, and the following points can be helpful to all dairy farmers.

- Your finely tuned, computergenerated dairy nutrition program is only accurate if you or your nutritionist has taken truly representative samples of your forage. Samples should be taken every time hay or silage quality changes. Also, several samples of a particular forage should be taken and mixed together to get a true sample for the lab.
- Be sure you have an accurate determination of the dry matter for each forage. A change of just a couple percent either way can drastically affect the ration balance and, ultimately, milk production, and herd health
- Do you really know how much your cows are actually consuming? Determine accurate weights for each forage that is fed and, most importantly, deduct the amount that is refused. Mixing a TMR for a certain level of intake is

fine, if the cows eat all of it. However, if some is refused, the entire ration becomes out of balance.

• When asked what your cows' body weights are, do you automatically say 1,300 pounds? This is another area that affects the ration that is required to reach peak production. If your ration is calculated for a 1,300-pound cow and your average body weight is really 1,400 pounds, your cows are getting short-changed.

• Different rations for different groups. We, in human nutrition, don't eat or need the same nutrition at 10-years-old as we do at 25, or at 60! Cows are similar, with different nutritional needs based on their age and stage of lactation. The ideal setup would be to have separate rations for the following groups: first calf heifers; early dry cows (1 to 40 days); close-up dry cows (two weeks before calving); transitional group (first two weeks after calving); high group for production; middle group for production; low group for production.

If you have 500 cows, you probably can create a system close to this, depending on your facilities. However, for the majority of farms, a high group, low group, and one or two dry cow rations could produce positive returns for production and herd health.

• The dry cow programs on many farms are often neglected, whereas these should be top priority. What the cow does during the next lactation is largely reflected by her care and feeding during the dry period.

These six points can be easily accomplished by all dairy farmers, and the results will be more profit. That is what the business of dairy farming is all about.

## Chester County DHIA February 1995

Cows producing over 800 lbs. protein

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Namel	Breed	Age	Milk	Fat	Pro
Joseph & Sandra Lusby	71,5.64	1151			
Gwen	Н	3-08	31,859	964	846
Timberview Farm					
Snuggle	H	6-02	28,305	1069	849
Jessica	H	6-02	27,181	934	813
Marilyn & Duane Hershey	**	4.00	05 025	050	839
Amelia	H	4-06	25,235 31,688	959 773	913
Lolly Corold I. Kulp Sons	H	3-00	31,000	113	913
Gerald L. Kulp Sons 177	Н	7-07	26,482	772	823
229	ŤŤ	5-03	24,536	929	824
241	11	4-03	27,947	756	877
E. Kent High Jr.					
23	H	7-08	26,680	865	807
Merle J. King	**	2.04	26 804	1012	950
Flower	H H	3-04 3-02	26,804 23,531	1013 1020	859 810
Mable Levi S. King	н	3-02	25,331	1020	810
Josie	Н	0-00	28,042	910	888
Harold & Glenn Ranck		0 00	20,0 .2	7.0	
Elmae	H	3-00	24,552	906	817
Beatric	H	4-08	28,231	930	842
Dunwood Farm				4040	000
Saturn	H	9-07	27,816	1213	883
Hanna	H	5-03	24,420 33,773	953 1342	833 1081
Vanessa Paula	H H	3-04 2-03	25,624	845	801
Chester & Rebecca Stoltzfus		2-03	23,024	U7 <i>3</i>	001
Sue	H	5-05	28,768	1022	891
Richard Hoover		5 05	20,700		
29	H	6-05	29,307	685	828
122	H	4-06	28,521	668	911
Century Oak Farm		2.04	05.051	061	005
Lilac	H	3-06	25,371	961	825
Jody	H	3-04	22,603	881	874
Herman Stoltzfus Jane	Н	3-03	26,364	1070	803
Richard Hostetter	11	3-03	20,504	1070	005
3	H	3-03	26,302	866	848
Thunder Valley Farm					
98	H	7-07	25,977	841	809
Milky	H	6-04	28,787	898	937
Mark & Melody Stoltzfus					000
Fire	H	6-01	27,290	854	889
Wilkinson Farm 1	**	4.01	22 757	1029	930
3058	H H	4-01 3-09	32,757 27,290	953	909
3108 77	Ĥ	3-09	26,735	1105	855
2695	Ĥ	3-05	24,663	1055	810
George Strutynski & Sons			•		
28	H	5-04	27,952	858	802
David F. King			20.042	0.54	012
Jody 92	H	7-00	29,842	956	913
New Bolton Ctr Unit	7.7	4.06	25 710	875	824
173	Н	4-06	25,719	673	024
Ar Joy II Judy	Н	6-07	28,153	939	849
Melwood Farm	••		,		
Windy	H	5-10	32,919	1253	1007
Victory	H	3-03	29,204	1079	964
Cinamon	H	2-11	29,423	1166	937
Breck-A-De Farm	LT	2 02	26 151	836	807
194 Pai-Valley Farm	H	3-03	26,451	0.50	607
Pei-Valley Farm 95	Н	3-03	26,157	967	839
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