

# Westfalia Certifies Pa.DHIA Personnel

**DAVID BIGELOW**  
 Training Coordinator  
 UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.)—Westfalia Systemat recently held a certification seminar on March 7-9, for 20 Pa. DHIA personnel.

The list of personnel who received the Westfalia certification included 10 technicians, region managers, training coordinator, director of field operations, and members of the processing staff, as well as the help desk.

Receiving the Westfalia training certification gives the participants of the seminar the education needed to provide advanced training to the technicians and members of Pa. DHIA.

The seminar involved three days of education on all aspects of the Westfalia Dairy Plan. The Westfalia Dairy Plan takes the input from the Quick Barnsheet program and creates a data base, which allows the technician to create basically any report the dairymen may request.

Representing Westfalia Systemat and teaching the seminar were Paul Bergstrom, programmer, and Bob Turner and Rob Kolb, sales representatives. This was a great opportunity, to be taught from a programmer's point-of-view as well as being taught from the sales representative's.

Basic data, such as adding a cow to the system, entering feed



**Pa.DHIA personnel participate in a Westfalia systems certification seminar in order to help members get the information they need the way they need it.**

amounts and entering monthly milk data was covered in the beginning of the seminar.

The proper way to enter Vet Action Entries was covered next on the seminar agenda. Vet Action Entries include Cow Calving, Heat Observation, Insemination, Pregnancy check entries and a Vet Checklist.

The highlight of the seminar was the participants being taught how to design a quick report, as well as create graphs. In this process, it was made clear how to

change report limits, sorting, columns and headings.

At Pa. DHIA, we feel that these reports can give our members another tool in the management of dairy records, in today's fast paced dairy industry.

Westfalia Dairy Plan reports are available on test day from your Pa. DHIA technician.

Ask your technician or region manager about Westfalia Dairy Plan Reports. Also, feel free to contact Dean Amick at 1-800-344-8378, if you have any questions.

## National DHIA Considers Rules Change

**DAVID SLUSSER**  
 General Manager  
 Pa.DHIA

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.)—The National DHIA Convention recently held in Burlington, Vermont was very informative and well organized.

The highlight of the convention was the passing of a resolution supporting the development of the Herd and Cow Profiles Program to replace the Official Rules System. Most of what used to be called rules were standard operating procedures effecting on-farm date collecting procedures.

These standard procedures are essential and will be continued to ensure the integrity of the national dairy database, which includes technician training, sample and data collection and milk meter calibration and operations.

Once development is finished, the Herd and Cow Profiles will replace the official rules.

This concept is a snapshot of information pertaining to how records are collected and developed.

The basic herd profile could be a minimum for participation in young sire sampling programs and breed association programs. In order for a herd to participate in these programs, they would have to agree to "open disclosure" of the information in the Herd and/or Cow Profile. The only exception would be "farm only" records.

The Herd Profile is designed to present herd performance and descriptive information. The profile would be uniform throughout the DHIA system.

The following are several identified users of DHIA information and how they might use the program.

1) Members not interested in marketing cattle or participating in industry programs. They could use the Herd Profile information just for management purposes and not want verifications of outlier information.

2) Non-marketing herds that would like to see their herd averages or cow information listed. Other producers could rely on the reputation of members, or could request additional verification for a fee.

3) Local committees or local DHIA may choose to publish verified records only, underwriting the cost of verification.

4) Herds actively marketing cattle may receive extra value from verified outlier cattle. They would pay for the cost of verification test and benefit from the market place.

5) AI and breed organizations may choose to verify specific animals, and develop guidelines covering the ordering and payment of verification test.

Research is still in progress on this new system.

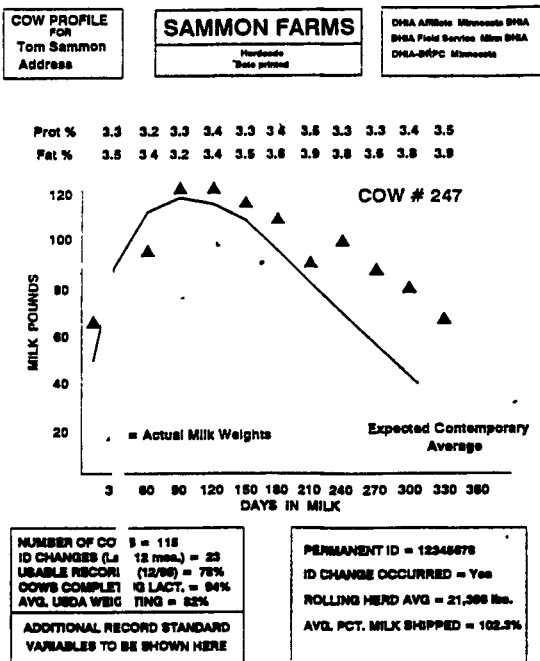
The resolution passed at the convention indicated support for continued development of the Herd and Cow Profile Program. Implementation of the program will occur after research and development results are finished, and the results indicate intended purposes are met.

The Herd Profile may contain information on rolling herd average, average lactation curve, bulk tank comparisons, number of supervised and unsupervised tests, number of component samplings, PTA distribution, M.E. distributions, number of cows, ID changes in last year, percent usable records, percent cows completing lactation, and percent average USDA weighting.

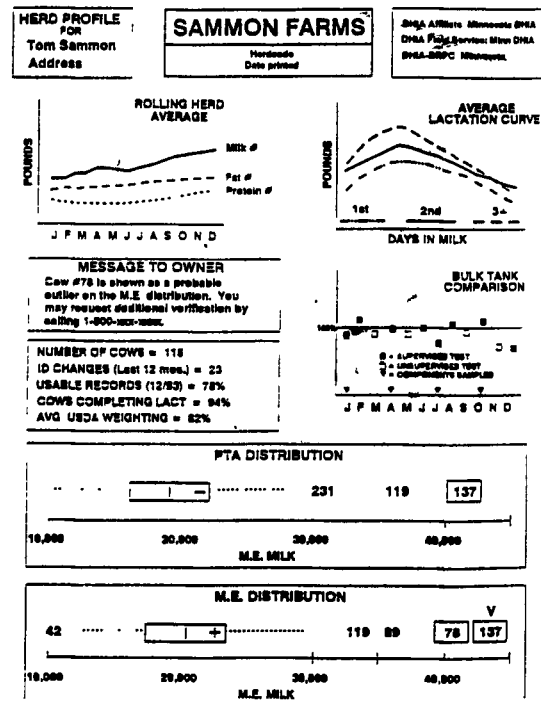
Possible and probable outlier cows will be identified on the PTA and M.E. distribution graphs.

These cows' exceptional production may be due to 1) high genetic merit 2) unintended environmental bias, 3) errors in data collection or 4) intentional bias. The method of resolving the reasons for the outlier cows will depend on the users of this information.

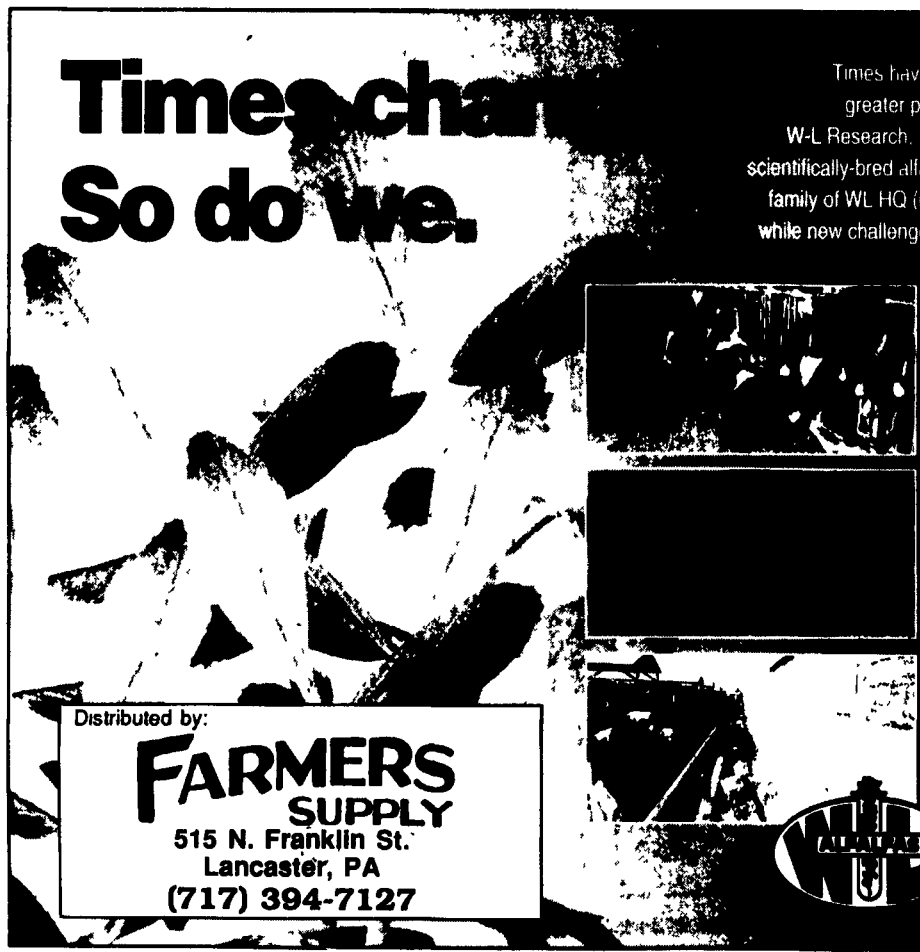
### COW PROFILE



### HERD PROFILE



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