



Call 1-800-DHIA-TEST for information. Pennsylvania Dairy Herd Improvement Association, DHIA Service Center, Orchard Road, University Park, PA 16802

be sent to county committees and county agents requesting participation in Dairy Day Programs or county DHIA committees workshops.

Dr. Steve Ford, several county agents, and Dave Slusser are willing to present this program at meetings. Pa. DHIA Performance Economics will be free to members.

Board action included the appointment of a Long Range

Dr. Jim Ferguson from New Bolton Center is to speak on MUN and its importance in dairy herd nutrition and reproductive health. The Pa. DHIA Performance Economics Program will also be on the agenda. District meetings are scheduled for Jan. 23 through Feb. 5.

Jim Boyer, manager of Pa. Dairy Records Processing Center (DRPC), reported on the nation's first MUN Analysis Report. The members who pay 15 cents per cow get this report that summarizes lactation groups, days in milk, and groups within the herd.

Boyer also reported that about four different organizations are applying for approval of new DRPCs. The trend in the nation seems to be turning from large multi-state processing centers back to smaller local DRPCs like Pennsylvania.

The field report and the general manager's report were given by Dave Slusser. The Fall Technicians Training Conferences were held throughout Pennsylvania for all our field technicians. MUN analysis and its importance to our technicians, by local veterinarians, county agents, and/or Penn State professors. We really appreciate the support given us by these professionals and our field technicians.

Our Performance Economics Program is complete, copies have been distributed to several interested farmers, and the board. Over the next several weeks letters will

**DAVE SLUSSER
General Manager**

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.)—At the most recent meeting of the Pa. DHIA Board of Directors, Dixie Burris, manager of the lab, reported on the successful introduction of MUN (Milk Urea Nitrogen) analysis.

As of the end of October, 607 member herds with over 40,000 cows were tested for MUN. These figures do not include the non-member SAP (Sample Analysis Program) herds.

Vermont DHIA Board of Directors voted to have Pa. DHIA do their MUN testing.

The successful introduction of MUN is attributed to a major effort by Pa. DHIA to promote the service through news releases, advertising, veterinarians, nutritionists, and county agents. Also help and advice was sought from University of Pennsylvania, New Bolton Center, Penn State, and Cornell.

New Bolton Center did our calibration samples, and will continue to do so. New Bolton is also doing calibration samples for several other DHIA's throughout the United States.

The infra red analysis system has proved to be extremely accurate and the most efficient way of MUN analysis. Our 15 cents per cow member fee is the lowest in the nation.

In other business, Dixie announced the annual meeting of Pa. DHIA is to be held Feb. 16, at the Holiday Inn, State College.

DHIA Fall Conferences

Recently Pa. DHIA completed the fall technician conferences. Highlighting the conferences was discussion on the milk urea nitrogen testing.

Penn State personnel, veterinarians and county agents presented a program at each of the 14 conferences across the state. Their presentations included using overheads to stress the importance of testing for milk urea nitrogen, which is a by-product of tissue and dietary breakdown in all animals.

It was pointed out that the cow breaks ammonia down into urea because ammonia is toxic to the cow's system.

It takes energy for cows to synthesize urea for excretion. This reduces the amount of energy available for milk production.

In essence, less available energy may put early lactation cows at increased risk for ketosis. High levels of urea are toxic to sperm and embryos and can result in infertility.

Monthly monitoring of milk urea nitrogen can help to recognize when feeding changes need to be made which can directly affect the reproductive status of the herd.

Each region manager discussed the importance of monitoring the bulk tank comparisons and discussed changes being made.

Dean Amick, director of field operations, discussed technician benefits and pricing.

A certification exam was given in compliance with National DHIA's quality certification program. Along with this exam there was a retention performance evaluation given at the end of the conference to measure the retention of the information presented at the conference.

Pa. DHIA holds three conferences a year along with monthly mini meetings to continuously update and educate the technicians on any changes.

**Pa. DHIA
1995 County Annual Banquets**

Date	County	Place	Time
Nov. 18	Lackawanna	Green Grove Grange	7:45 p.m.
Nov. 20	York	Shrewsbury Fire Hall	7 p.m.
Nov. 21	Perry	Landisburg Fire Hall	7 p.m.
Nov. 30	Beaver	Extension Office	10:30 a.m.
Nov. 30	Lebanon	Meyerstown Church of the Brethren	7 p.m.
Dec. 1	Westmoreland	Knights Court Inn, New Stanton	11 a.m.
Dec. 5	Berks	Kutztown Grange Hall	7 p.m.
Dec. 6	Wayne	Bethany Methodist Church Hall	7:45 p.m.
Dec. 7	Centre	Logan Grange Hall, Pleasant Gap	7 p.m.
Dec. 7	Chester	West Fallowfield School	7 p.m.
Dec. 8	Armstrong	Steak House, West Kittanning	11 a.m.
Dec. 14	Adams	Harney Fire Hall	7 p.m.
Dec. 15	Indiana	Hoss's, Indiana	Noon
Jan. 13	Dauphin	Western Sizzler, Progress Ave.	10:45 a.m.

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