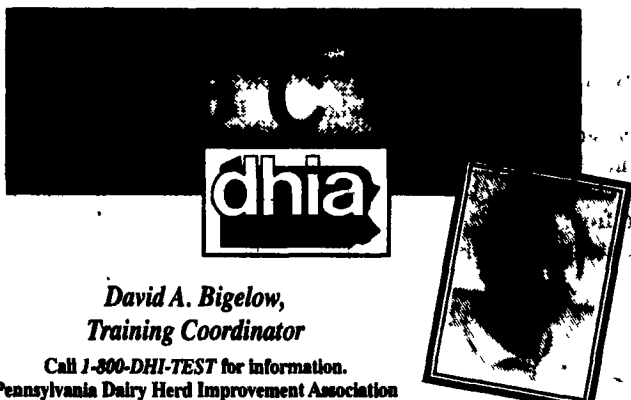


Pa.DHIA MUN Advisory Committee Meets



dhia

David A. Bigelow,
Training Coordinator

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

DAVE SLUSSER
General Manager
STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — The 2nd annual Pa. DHIA MUN (Milk Urea Nitrogen) Advisory Committee meeting was held here April 16 and was attended by 17 veterinarians, nutritionists, university personnel from Penn State and University of Pennsylvania-New Bolton Center.

A presentation of research results by Dr. Jim Ferguson at New Bolton Center started the meeting and sparked indepth discussion. The information and advice given Pa. DHIA will be used in guiding the Pa. DHIA MUN promotion and educational program.

The first event scheduled to use this new information is a series of six seminars planned for Pennsylvania from April 29 to May 6. These meetings will serve our members by helping their consultants do a better job of interpreting MUN summary information.

The largest single cost of running a dairy farm is feed cost. Monitoring your feeding efficiency, especially this year, can be the determining factor between profit

and loss.

The committee emphasized that MUN is a valuable tool to add to the information arsenal of dairymen and their consultants. To assist our members educational programs and material must include the latest of research findings.

News articles and research papers will be written and distributed so our members get the latest information as it appears.

Approximately 900 members' herds are tested monthly and another 150 herds are on a testing schedule every other or every third month, averaging around 60,000 cows per month on MUN analysis.

An additional number of cows and herds are being tested from other DHIA associations in the north and southeast.

While the committee felt the program's acceptance was very good, promotion and news articles need to continue so dairymen use MUN during the critical time of the year when feeding rations change rapidly, pasture comes into the picture and heat stress occurs.

During hot, humid summer months inadequate water intake could elevate MUN levels.

Pa. DHIA is the only Dairy Records Processing Center that collects MUN analysis results and disseminates the data for research and field use.

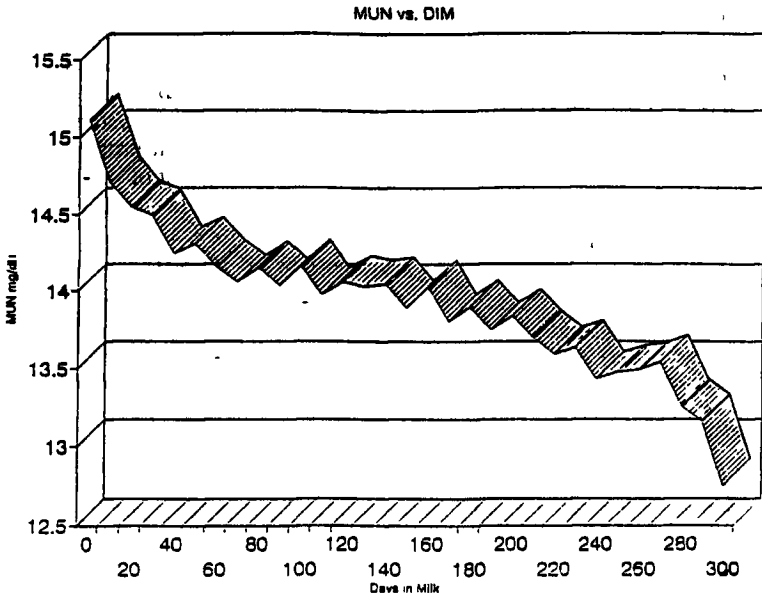
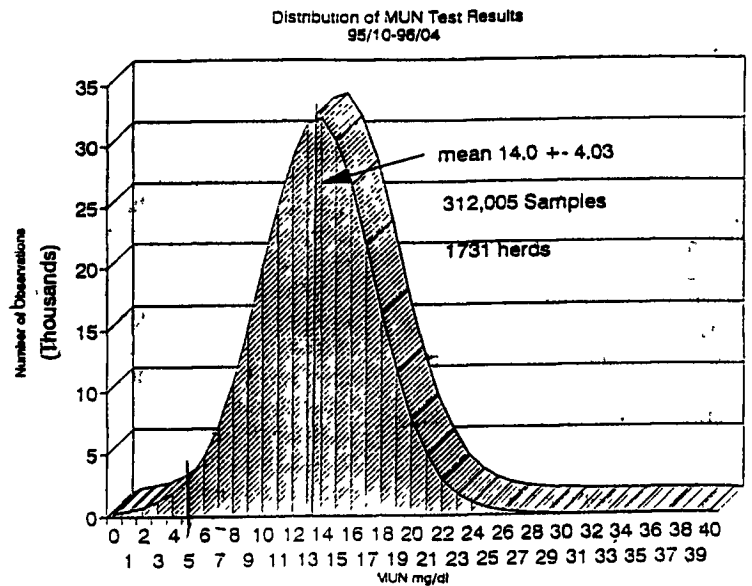
Jim Boyer reported that our processing center is now hooked into the Internet and veterinarians, nutritionists, researchers, educators and dairy farmers can now download MUN information from the Internet.

New Bolton Center and Pa. DHIA are connected and MUN summary information will soon be available through New Bolton's Web page. Pa. DHIA also is developing a Web page for direct access to DHIA information including MUN data.

Dr. Ferguson's report compared Pa. DHIA MUN cow information with BUN (Blood Urea Nitrogen) test taken the same day that the DHIA technician was in the herd.

He also tested the milk in their lab using wet chemistry and spectrophotometric techniques and

(Turn to Page A29)



The graphs illustrate the distribution of 312,005 samples from 1,731 herds tested by Pa.DHIA and the distribution by days in milk.



From the left, Dave Slusser, manager of Pa.DHIA, George Wilcox, an Extension dairy agent, and University of Pennsylvania New Bolton Center researcher James Ferguson VMD, discuss results of a comparative study of Milk Urea Nitrogen and Blood Urea Nitrogen in dairy cattle.

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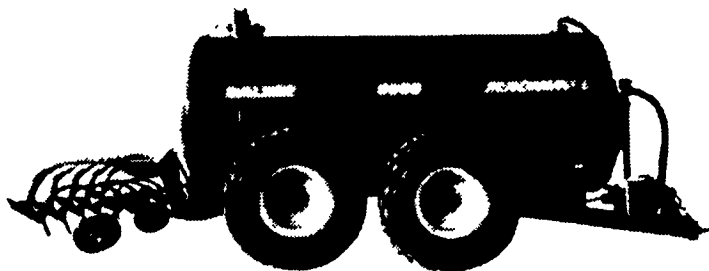
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