

**dhia**

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Call 1-800-DHI-TEST for information.  
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STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — A group of agribusiness people representing different republics within the Commonwealth of Independent State (CIS, formerly the Soviet Union) recently toured the Pennsylvania Dairy Herd Improvement Association (Pa.DHIA) testing laboratory.

The group's main purpose for setting up tours in the United States is to learn about Pennsylvania's and the United States' dairy and meat industries.

At the Pa.DHIA laboratory, staff explained to the CIS representatives how milk samples are collected at the farm and shipped

to State College for testing for fat, protein, somatic cell and milk urea nitrogen content.

They were also told about the processing of reports and the role of the DHIA technician in getting accurate information and transmitting it to headquarters.

Tour participants were part of a program designed to provide hands-on, and on-site experiences that can provide a solid base of understanding of the real scope of the dairy and meat industry here and across the nation.

Throughout their tour, of which the visit to Pa.DHIA was but a part, the delegation was to participate in case studies, demonstrations of practices, different discussion for-

ums and seminars.

The goal of the program is to teach modern dairy business and meat processing procedures, along with production techniques, that are expected to increase profitability of CIS agricultural business and ideally enhance the stability of economies among CIS republic communities.

They found out that our food system's farm-to-table approach is safe and provides the highest quality to the consumer, as well as the fact that essential to United States agricultural business is the research and extension programming that supports a progressive and profitable agricultural industry.

The staff of Pa.DHIA enjoyed meeting with the visitors and showing them the day-to-day operations of Pa.DHIA.

**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 - 4.57 bu. 8.17 cwt.  
Wheat, No. 2 - 5.40 bu. 9.01 cwt.  
Barley, No. 3 - 3.6 bu. 7.70 cwt.

Oats, No. 2 - 2.41 bu. 7.50 cwt.  
Soybeans, No. 1 - 7.65 bu. 12.77 cwt.  
Ear Corn 108.54 ton 5.43 cwt.  
Alfalfa Hay - 127.50 ton 6.38 cwt.  
Mixed Hay - 115.00 ton 5.75 cwt.  
Timothy Hay - 113.00 ton 5.65 cwt.

**EPA Asks Ag Community For Feedback**

PHILADELPHIA — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) wants to hear from employers and workers who use and handle agricultural pesticides.

On June 26, the EPA will hold a public meeting in Biglerville, to get feedback on its federal regulations governing the protection of employees on farms, forests, nurseries, and greenhouses from pesticide poisonings and injuries.

EPA will hold its public meeting at the Biglerville High School, North Main Street, beginning at 7 p.m. Registration will take place immediately before the meeting from 5 to 7 p.m., during which time federal and state representatives will be available to speak one-on-one with people prior to the open meeting.

In 1992, the EPA issued more stringent regulations to protect agricultural workers and pesticide handlers from work-related exposures to pesticides. The EPA allowed for the regulations to be phased in, and 1995 was the first full year of implementation by

employers and workers. Officially called the Worker Protection Standard regulations, the federal regulations require safety training for pesticide workers, specific procedures for applying pesticides, and other measures to protect workers.

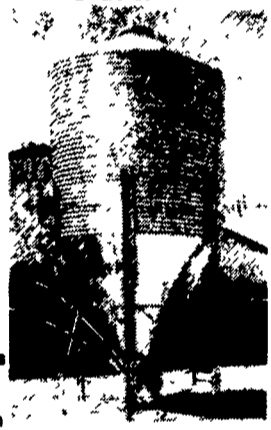
"This is an opportunity for the people directly affected by these worker protection regulations to tell us how they are being impacted," said Thomas J. Maslany, director of the air radiation and toxics division at EPA's Region III office in Philadelphia. "We will use the public's input for improving the way we administer the regulations."

Maslany said the agency needs to find out if employers and workers understand the federal requirements, and if there's been success or difficulty in implementing the requirements. Information on available assistance will be offered.

For more information, contact Magda Rodriguez-Hunt, U.S. EPA, at (215) 566-2128.

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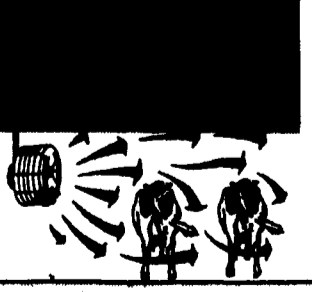
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