



From left, Dave Slusser, PA DHIA, manager; Dean Aden, northwestern region manager; and Dan Smith, technical support, prepare to greet members at ag progress days.

AG PROGRESS DAYS PROVES SUCCESSFUL

DAVID BIGELOW
Training Coordinator

Staff from PA DHIA had the opportunity to greet members and answer questions they may have concerning any of the reports that PA DHIA provides. Along with all of this, the staff corresponded with some potential new members whom would like a visit from a staff member to explain the programs that are available.

By being on the somatic cell count program a dairyman may be able to increase profits by \$2,400, by dropping one code (4 to 3). At the same time the somatic cell report offers present bulk tank infection contamination which means the report can pinpoint which cow or cows may be creating a problem.

On the other hand, a dairyman may save \$250 per year in semen

alone for a 50 cow herd using \$10/unit semen by reducing breeding services per cow from 2.2 to 1.7. This information is all found on the reproductive report.

The all new performance economics program can be used in monitoring profits. Currently PA DHIA has a limited offer on this program which can provide the member with a wealth of financial information. This information includes cost to produce 100 lb. of milk, individual cow profitability, daily profit per cow, rolling net herd income and rolling net income per cow. On the other side of the spectrum, heifer costs can also be monitored to include cost to put a 2 year old in the milking string, cost per heifer per day in each group or pen, cost per month per heifer, cost per year per heifer, cost per group or pens per month and total projected annual cost of your heifer program. This program allows the dairyman to closely monitor and to make management decisions based on hard actual financial facts. The all new

performance economics program, which is the first in the nation, costs \$25 for an initial set-up fee and is only \$15 for monthly updates.

Innovative plans are also available for dairymen who may want a program that is not currently available. By contacting Dean Amick, director of field operations, members may apply for one of these programs.

Milk urea nitrogen testing is available at only \$.15 per cow as long as the member is on a current testing program. Milk urea nitrogen testing is a valuable tool to add to the information arsenal of dairymen and their consultants. While PA DHIA serves its own membership with this service an additional number of cows and herds are being tested from other DHIA associations in the North and Southeast. PA DHIA is the only dairy records processing center that collects MUN analysis results and disseminates the data for research and field use. The processing center is now hooked into the Internet and veterinarians,

nutritionists, researchers, educators and dairy farmers can now download MUN information through the Internet.

This information as well as any problems or concerns was addressed at ag progress days. If you have any questions concerning any of the programs, please feel free to contact PA DHIA at 1-800-DHI-TEST.

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 — 5.29 bu., 9.47 cwt.
- Wheat, No. 2 — 4.55 bu., 7.60 cwt.
- Barley, No. 3 — 3.40 bu., 7.27 cwt.
- Oats, No. 2 — 2.26 bu., 7.04 cwt.
- Soybeans, No. 1 — 7.44 bu., 12.42 cwt.
- Ear Corn — 140.52 ton, 7.03 cwt.
- Alfalfa Hay — 105.50 ton, 5.28 cwt.
- Mixed Hay — 105.00 ton, 5.25 cwt.
- Timothy Hay — 104.25 ton, 5.21 cwt.

Sheep Junior Show Draws Hundreds

FRANKLIN, Ind. — The third annual All American Jr. Show took place here on July 5-7.

This junior show brought more than 1,200 sheep, and 400 exhibitors from 23 states were represented at the Johnson County Fairgrounds.

Ten different breeds of sheep were shown in both breeding and

market classes, wool contests, and the ever-popular 3-on-3 basketball challenge. This fun-filled weekend is designed to be educational, family-oriented, and competitive.

Kyle Fleener of Robesonia was a competitor in the Southdown division. In the promotional contests, logo division, kyle receive 1st place.

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