Lancaster DHIA

Lancaster Dairy Herd Improvement Assoc.
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LANCASTFR D.H.I.A. EXPANDS SERVICE TO CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Lancaster D.H.I.A. recently expanded it's service area to include Cumberland County. Jere High, Field Coordinator, reported 20 herds have signed up over the past month to receive service. Lancaster D H.I A has been growing rapidly, adding 135 herds since 10-1-97. Quality Technician Service. PC Dart and a variety of low cost testing programs are part of the reason for the success Lancaster has enjoyed.

Robert Lichtenberger has assumed the position of D.H.I.A. Technician for Cumberland County. Bob has years of experience as a dairyman and D.H I A Technician Bob enjoys helping dairymen understand their reports and use the information to manage their herds.

For more information about our service, call the Lancaster office at (717) 665-5960

MANAGEMENT TIPS
By ... Jay Mylin

Milk production per cow continues to run between 4 and 5 pounds more per day This increased production started about a year ago and has continued at the same pace all year Rolling herd averages have climbed over 1,200 pounds in one year. With milk price a little higher, income over feed cost is $ 56 per day higher even though feed price is $ 12 higher Hay prices are the main cause of higher feed prices this year

The data below is the average of all herds serviced by Lancaster D H I A in Southeastern Pennsylvania For information and price on our service, call (717) 665-5960.

Herd Comparisons
All herds serviced by Lancaster DHIA

	February 1997	February 1998
Milk Production		
Milk Per Day	66.8 lbs	71.1 lbs
% Fat	3.6%	3.6%
D.I.M.	174 days	179 days
Standardized 150 day	70.1 lbs	75.0 lbs
Rolling Herd Average	19,301	20,583
Breeding		
Days To First Service	92 days	94 days
% Successful Service		
December	44%	43%
November	45%	47%
October	41%	42%
September	38%	39%
August	40%	36%
Other Management Information		
Average Milk Price (February)	$14.05 (3.6)	$14.32 (3.6)
Feed Cost (Milking Cows per Day)	$3.54	$3.66
Income Over Feed Cost (All Cows)	$4.77	$5 33
SCC	309,000	300,000
M.U.N	15.9	14 4

Dr. Beegle Clarifies

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sheds, and from a few storm events.

A cooperative research project between Penn State and USDA-ARS is looking at how we can identify these critical source areas for phosphorus and work these findings into nutrient management plans.

With this approach, we can recommend best management practices targeted to these areas, rather than applying a broad, zero-tolerance phosphorus limit to all agricultural land.

We feel that such an approach will maximize the benefits from agriculture's efforts to control phsophorus and still be practical and economically feasible for farmers.

As noted in the article, other research is ongoing across the country investigating the effects of animal feeding programs on the phosphorus content of manure.

An example of this is the use of phytase in poultry feed to make the animal more efficient in utilizing phosphorus, thus reducing the phosphorus in the manure.

There is also work on manure additives, such as alum, to tie-up the phosphorus in forms that are not bioavailable, thus reducing the potential environmental impact.

Another example is manure separation. When manure solids and liquids are separated, most of the available nitrogen is in the liquid fraction and most of the phosphorus is in the solid fraction.

This provides some flexibility in matching manure nutrients to crop needs by targeting the individual nutrient applications to fields where they will be most beneficial and/or have the least potential for environmental impact.

It is unlikely that any of these approaches, or others that may come out of this active research, will individually solve the problem. However, this research is providing a set of tools that can be integrated into a management program, based on the site-specific situation, to practically and effectively address the concerns that have been expressed about agricultural phosphorus without taking the extreme approach of a strict limit on phosphorus applications.

What has been "sudden and unexpected" is not our technical under-

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