

CD-ROM Helps Teach Body Condition Scoring

PRINCETON, N.J. - All you wanted to know about dairy cattle body condition scoring but were afraid to ask is now available on CD-ROM.

Cornell University, with the support of a grant from USDA "Challenges in Higher Education" program, produced this interactive learning tool, titled "Body Condition Scoring of Dairy Cattle." The CD-ROM addresses the need, process and benefits of body condition scoring - a non-invasive method of estimating fat stores in live dairy cows. Church & Dwight Co., Inc., manufacturer of Arm & Hammer® brand feed ingredients, is coordinating the promotion and distribution of this CD-ROM.

A unique educational program with videos, animated graphics and sound, "Body Condition Scoring of Dairy Cattle" focuses on three main topics: First, what is body condition? Second, why should I use body condition scoring? And third, what is the best system?

By utilizing the CD-ROM, users not only learn body condition scoring techniques, they come to better understand how energy balance can effect reproductive efficiency, milk production and health.

According to Bill Tom, Church & Dwight's MEGALAC® Rumen Bypass Fat senior business manager, the CD-ROM fulfills a need for educational resources devoted specifically to body condition scoring.

"The 'Body Condition Scoring of Dairy Cattle' CD-ROM presents the basic concepts with respect to energy balance and body condition reserves after calving," Tom said. "This CD-ROM is a valuable teaching tool for the classroom, dairy producer workshops, 4-H, FFA and junior dairy breed association meetings, and many other learning situations."

Why is body condition scoring so important? According to

Pascal Oltenacu, a Cornell University animal scientist, cows calving at extreme body condition scores suffer from poor reproductive performance and low milk production.

"Body condition has a tremendous impact on milk production and reproduction - the crux of dairy producers' profitability," Oltenacu said, "If used correctly, body condition scoring can help producers fine tune their management programs and reap great benefits."

Body condition scoring is based on seeing and palpating the back and hindquarters of a cow. This process helps a scorer determine the amount of fat and flesh covering certain areas, particularly the tailhead, hook and pinbones, loin and rump areas.

To illustrate different body condition scores, the CD-ROM shows video clips of cows with varying body condition scores. Plus, a demonstrator points out key body parts that give clues for assessing scores.

According to Oltenacu, those studying the "Body Condition Scoring of Dairy Cattle" CD-ROM will easily be able to recognize basic differences in body condition.

"Just like judging dairy cattle, body condition scoring takes practice," Oltenacu said. "The more often you do it, the easier it gets."

Users of this CD-ROM can find out how much they have learned by taking the body condition scoring quiz. The multiple-choice quiz evaluates knowledge retained throughout this educational tool.

To order the "Body Condition Scoring of Dairy Cattle" CD-ROM, send a check or money order for \$65 to Church & Dwight Co., Inc. Inquiry Service Center, P.O. Box 864, Brookfield, WI 53005-0864. For information on quantity discounts, call the ARM & HAMMER hotline at (800) 526-3563.



Lancaster Holstein Lovers Have Field Day

At the Lancaster County Holstein Field Day Thursday evening are from left, Mark Welk, host; Glenn Shirk, Lancaster County dairy agent; Elizabeth Smith, Lancaster County dairy princess; and Mike Eby, chair of the event. The center of attraction is Welkshade Sterling Kizzy EX92 who is well known for winning local shows. She looks wonderful in her work clothes too with 3y 27,741m 1,039f 966p. Welkshade is noted for large beautiful excellent cows, four of them in the aged cow class for the judging contest that is a traditional part of this evening of fellowship. Winners in the judging contest are, Robert Groff, men's division; Shawn Wenger and Millie Groff, women's division; and Amy Vaugan, youth division. About 350 Holstein lovers attended. Photo by Everett Newswanger, managing editor.

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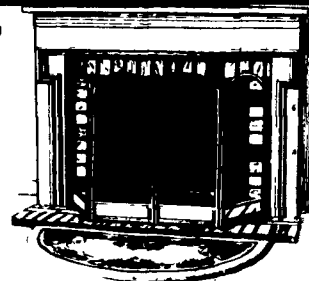
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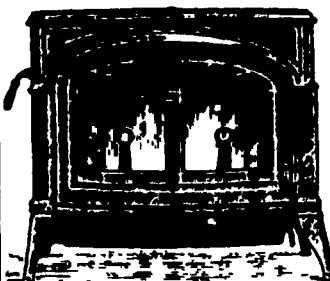


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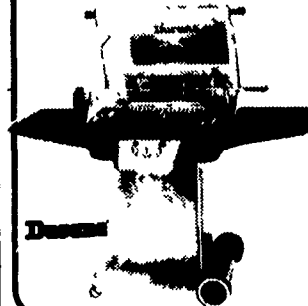
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STATE COLLEGE (Dauphin Co.) - As dairies increase in size, the question arises, "Do I need to continue testing my milk samples?" The answer, plain and simple, is "yes," and there are many compelling reasons why.

Recently a dairy specialist from the University of Delaware wrote an article about dairymen who were getting paid an incentive for their non-fat milk solids (NFMS).

A herd with 150 cows and a test of 4.1 percent fat and 8.9 percent NFMS, at a price of \$1.2332 per pound fat and \$1.02 per pound NFMS, would make \$1,497 more than a herd with the same milk yield and a test of 3.78 percent fat and 8.79 percent NFMS.

Without individual sample test-

ing you don't know which cows to keep for NFMS and which ones should be culled. This clearly shows the benefit of component testing.

MUN testing has become an even greater management tool as more and more dairymen see the positive effects of using the results with their feeding program. As more vets and nutritionists utilize MUN and incorporate it into their herd programs, this becomes a must-have for all dairymen.

Contact Pa. DHIA at 1-800-344-8378 if you have any questions or would like a representative of Pa. DHIA to stop by your farm to explain how Pa. DHIA records can help you.