

dhia

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PA DHIA Board Visits New Bolton Center

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — The PA DHIA board of directors held a recent meeting at Glen Mills, located near the New Bolton Center of University of Pennsylvania. The board toured the facility.

Dr. Jim Ferguson and Dr. Dave Galligan served as hosts for the tour of the center and dairy facility.

Following dinner, Dr. Ferguson reported on a recent impartial trial on DHIA Milk Urea Nitrogen (MUN) testing. Ferguson said that the PA DHIA infrared MUN test was the most consistent and repeatable of the three DHIA labs providing MUN testing. Those MUN tests checked for repeatability included infrared and wet chemistry testing machines.

"Recent advertisements stating that wet chemistry is more accurate are simply not true," Ferguson said.

Dr. Galligan reported on his work on dairy production and veterinary economics. He said he wants to develop a program that

will help a dairyman to know when it is economical to treat a cow.

Galligan also said he wants to be able to measure the economic worth of feed ingredients. He is interested in working with PA DHIA and its Performance Economics Program to help him with his work.

In other business, the board approved the 1998-99 budget. PA DHIA is completing a profitable year, and the new budget calls for a similar sized profit.

No fee adjustments are necessary to achieve the new budget.

The board had been spending time reviewing the official Policy Manual, and at the meeting the new manual was approved.

Board policies are rules set by the board in which the general managers run the association.

The Planning Committee recommended that district meetings be held between November and February, depending on the wishes of each district. Because of varying harvest times and winter

weather, the board accepted the recommendations of the committee.


It was announced that the state annual meeting is to be held Feb. 16, 1999.

It was also announced that director elections are to be held in districts 2, 5, 8, and 11. District 6 also is to hold an election of a director to fulfill the unexpired term of Neal McCulloch.

The Eastern Caucus meeting of National DHIA is set for Oct. 24. Frank Orner, Ralph Gilkinson, John Brodzina, and Dale Hoover are to represent PA DHIA as delegates at the caucus meeting.

In other news, the board approved a resolution that allows a business other than a farmer-owned cooperative to become a member of National DHIA, provided that the organization meets quality control requirements. The resolution is to be presented by the delegates at the national DHIA meetings.

Dairyman To Dairyman



GEORGE CUDOC

PA DHIA
Consulting
Dairyman

QUESTION: We think body condition scoring can be a good tool to track proper nutrition, but with 300+ cows it takes too much time. Do you have ideas for an alternative plan?

ANSWER: Despite who is doing the scoring, it is sometimes hard to get the job done. One way not just to forget it is to make it a more meaningful tool and incorpo-

rate it in our nutrition plans.

We will discuss several ways to make this job just a bit more palatable.

1. The first way, in a way, makes the most sense. What you do is, to body score each cow at the times that you are working one-on-one with her.

The first time is when she calves. By scoring cows at freshening we get a feel for the correctness of your nutrition program during the prefresh period.

Your goal should be not to gain or lose body score during the pre-fresh cow period. Loss of a score here can result in cows not peaking correctly at 55 to 65 days in milk.

Peak levels will be lower due to body reserves not available when production exceeds dry matter intake.

Next you should score at breeding to establish nutrient adequacy needed for cows to cycle reproductively. Loss of a body score between freshening and breeding is normal but should change to a gain, as you want to breed your cows.

I then like to score cows at 150 to 200 days to establish needs for body weight gains as she nears dry off.

One body score is about 200- to 250-pounds body weight. This is so dependent on frame size in cows that I seldom think about it in this way. It's better to aim for a body score at dry off of 3.5 to 4, on the 5-point scale.

Lastly, score cows at prefresh time to evaluate the dry cow period.

By using this method of body scoring, we can evaluate cow management at times when we have special reasons to work one-on-one with them.

2. The second method is just as simple. It involves the ideas that there are times during the life of the cow that she has little change in body condition despite the management.

During these times, we can get very reliable information about body condition while sampling just part of the cows and applying this average to those cows in that category.

The first time you should score is 0- to 60-days in milk.

This group has much variation in weight loss so, you must score most of the cows here. To get reliable numbers, plan to score three out of every four cows, or 75 percent of the herd.

Sixty-one through 150-days in shows less variability in weight changes, so scoring 50 percent of the cows is adequate.

Since I like to use 150 days adjusted milk weights as a performance guide, I also like to score cows at 150- to 180-days in milk. Here you should score 75 percent of the cows for accurate information.

At 181 days through the end of lactation is normally a period of steady (body gain) progress in all cows, so scoring 25- to 50 percent of the herd is all that is necessary.

Dry cows — both early and late — are so important in managing the next lactation that I always do the same percentage as the early lactation cows.

These are two methods that can cut down on time spent, if you want to use body condition scoring as an evaluation tool to feeding management.

Don't get hung up on the numbers, but a look at trends can lead to positive changes in your cows. Body condition scoring can be an important part of modern dairy management.

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JOHN WINDSOR	PIONEER	34G81	128.0	15.7	57.0	\$254.16
	DEKALB	DK585	107.1	15.9	54.5	\$212.28
CAMBRIDGE, MD	SECOND TRIAL					
DORCHESTER COUNTY	PIONEER	34K77	149.7	16.0	60.5	\$296.35
	DEKALB	DK585	107.1	15.9	54.5	\$212.28
PLANTED 4/29/98	THIRD TRIAL					
HARVESTED 9/11/98	PIONEER	33Y18	127.7	15.0	59.0	\$255.49
	DEKALB	DK585	107.1	15.9	54.5	\$212.28
COOPERATOR <th>BRAND</th> <th>HYBRID</th> <th>YIELD</th> <th>MST.</th> <th>TEST WT.</th> <th>INCOME/ACRE</th>	BRAND	HYBRID	YIELD	MST.	TEST WT.	INCOME/ACRE
GEORGE R. MOFFETT	PIONEER	3394	137.9	15.8	58.0	\$273.59
	ASGROW	RX770	132.5	17.8	55.5	\$257.88
CHESTERTOWN, MD	PLANTED 4/13/98 HARVESTED 9/9/98					
KENT COUNTY						
COOPERATOR <th>BRAND</th> <th>HYBRID</th> <th>YIELD</th> <th>MST.</th> <th>TEST WT.</th> <th>INCOME/ACRE</th>	BRAND	HYBRID	YIELD	MST.	TEST WT.	INCOME/ACRE
EUGENE LOWE	S STATES	SS-793	111.0	16.8	55.0	\$218.07
	PIONEER	3346	131.5	12.7	59.0	\$263.00
HEBRON, MD	CARGILL	8327	108.5	15.5	58.0	\$215.85
WICOMICO COUNTY	PLANTED 4/15/98 HARVESTED 9/12/98					

COOPERATOR	BRAND	HYBRID	YIELD	MST.	TEST WT.	INCOME/ACRE
JONATHAN REED	PIONEER	33G28	108.6	18.5	58.0	\$209.64
	DOEBLER'S	75X	92.9	21.0	56.0	\$174.66
CHESTERTOWN, MD	PLANTED 4/29/98 HARVESTED 9/14/98					
KENT COUNTY						
COOPERATOR <th>BRAND</th> <th>HYBRID</th> <th>YIELD</th> <th>MST.</th> <th>TEST WT.</th> <th>INCOME/ACRE</th>	BRAND	HYBRID	YIELD	MST.	TEST WT.	INCOME/ACRE
CECIL GANNON & SONS	PIONEER	33Y08	123.0	19.1	58.5	\$235.93
	ASGROW	RX770	120.7	18.7	53.5	\$232.50
EASTON, MD	PLANTED 4/27/98 HARVESTED 9/4/98					
TALBOT COUNTY						
COOPERATOR <th>BRAND</th> <th>HYBRID</th> <th>YIELD</th> <th>MST.</th> <th>TEST WT.</th> <th>INCOME/ACRE</th>	BRAND	HYBRID	YIELD	MST.	TEST WT.	INCOME/ACRE
W H COOPER	PIONEER	3394	132.3	17.0	60.0	\$259.25
	S STATES	SS-742A	103.1	18.7	53.5	\$198.60
EDEN, MD	PLANTED 4/15/98 HARVESTED 9/10/98					
WICOMICO COUNTY						

Adjusted Gross Income calculated with the price of corn at \$2.00 per bushel and drying costs of \$.02 per point of moisture. Yield is represented in bushels/acre at 16% moisture.



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Average Farm Feed Costs For Handy Reference

Corn, No.2y — 2.23 bu., 3.99 cwt.	Ear Corn — 80.46 ton, 4.02 cwt.
Wheat, No. 2 — 2.31 bu., 3.86 cwt.	Alfalfa Hay — 114.38 ton, 5.72 cwt.
Barley, No. 3 — 1.32 bu., 2.81 cwt.	Mixed Hay — 110.00 ton, 5.50 cwt.
Oats, No. 2 — 1.31 bu., 4.09 cwt.	Timothy Hay — 112.50 ton, 5.63 cwt.
Soybeans, No. 1 — 4.97 bu., 8.30 cwt.	

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