


dhia

Scott Williams
Training Coordinator

Call 1-800-DHI-TEST, fax (814) 865-3294
Web site <http://www.dhia.psu.edu>
Pennsylvania Dairy Herd Improvement Association
DHIA Service Center, Orchard Road, University Park, PA 16802

Dairyman To Dairyman



GEORGE CUDOC
PA DHIA
Consulting
Dairyman

butterfat during June, July, August and September lost about \$5,550 in potential income.

This is not exactly correct, because the fact is that the reasons for the drop in butterfat during these months are the same reasons we get slightly higher milk yields.

Let us discuss the causes for this and decide if we have a reasonable trade-off.

First, we need to examine the statement made about this particular herd and its non-changing feed program.

With the information that was gathered we indeed see that these cows are being fed the same this summer as last winter. Corn silage, hay silage, high moisture corn, protein concentrate and hay make

up the diet year-round.

Careful consideration is given to macro- and micro-nutrient balance.

This indeed looks like a diet that is well-balanced and deserving to be put in front of cows.

There is a reason that we should look at what the cows tell us and not what the ration spreadsheet says. In this case, I'm quite certain we are looking at one of the most common mistakes made in trying to feed our herds — the on-paper diet is not the one the cows are consuming.

Further study into what this herd is eating tells us pretty much why there is a butterfat problem.

Cows are housed in the barn at night and are fed cafeteria style, according to the formulated ration.

During the day they are turned out to their haylage feeding which happens to be round-bale silage.

The mistake made was to assume the dry matter intake remained the same during the past few months.

With no known way to measure

the haylage consumed outside, and the cows eating inside at night to eat all their grain and consilage, there can be a large shift in the amount of fiber consumed from forage.

Add the knowledge that inside the barn the cows eat everything except a portion of their long hay, and the problem becomes compounded.

How do we correct the problem? First of all, when conditions become hot, we need to adjust the diets to account for lower dry matter intakes.

In my experience, it is better to guess the DMI too low than too high.

Rumen health will suffer and lead to other problems associated with it when diets get out of balance, from a fiber-standpoint, for more than just a short time.

When we can't measure what the cows are eating, we must make educated guesses about DMI. I for one like to start with the notion that cows will drop DMI about 10 percent when heat and humidity rise over a combined total of 150 (80 degrees and 70 percent humidity).

Making this adjustment has served me well in the past, but you need to make that determination according to how well you manage for cow comfort during these times. Of course, as temperature and humidity increase, so will the drop in DMI.

Your cows will tell you when you feed them right. Use your DHIA records, along with on-farm indicators, such as manure scoring, body condition scoring, and DMI to adjust diets that will maintain proper rumen health.

YOU'RE INVITED!

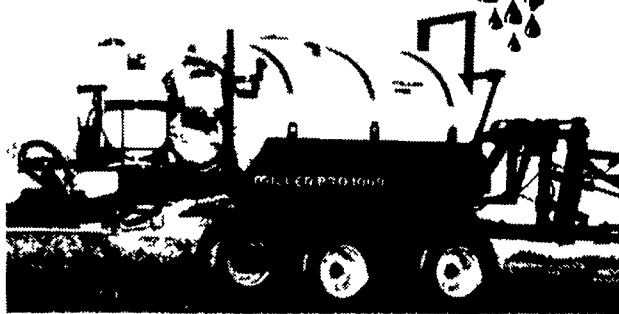
MILLER PRO FIELD DAYS

RAIN OR SHINE

DOOR PRIZES

WHEN: TUESDAY
OCTOBER 27, 1998
9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

WHERE: MESSICK FARM EQ.
ELIZABETHTOWN
(717) 367-1319
1-800-222-3373



Customize A Sprayer For Your Own Application.

SPRING SPECIAL
Order Before Oct. 31, 1998
for **BIGGEST SAVINGS!**

FIELD OPERATION OF FOLLOWING EQUIPMENT

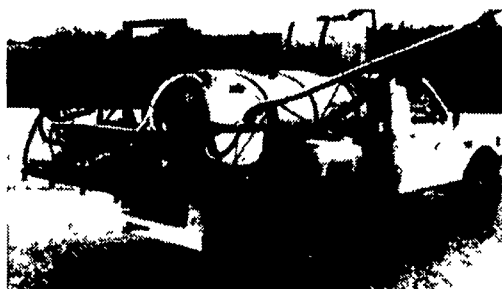
NITRO

TIGHT TURNING RADIUS!



UNMATCHED VISIBILITY

Power, capacity, superior traction up-front boom and precision control means more accurate spraying and more acres per day!



SUPERIOR BOOM SUSPENSION

LONGEST, STRONGEST WARRANTY

- ➔ Over 6' Crop Clearance
- ➔ 17" Leg Profile Width
- ➔ Lowest Ground Compaction

- ➔ 1200 Gallon Tank
- ➔ 90'/60' Boom
- ➔ 200 H.P. Cummins

ORDER NOW FOR HUGE SAVINGS!

MESSICK'S

SERVING TWO LOCATIONS

Rheems Exit - Route 283
Elizabethtown, PA 17022
717-367-1319 717-653-8867

RD 1, Box 225A, Abbottstown, PA 17301
West of York, PA On Route 30
717-259-6617

Martin's
AG. SERVICE

New Holland, PA
(717) 354-4996 (717) 445-7561



Hi Mag (Ag Lime Spreading) Hi-Cal
Also in bags, pulverized, pelletized and feed grade

FREE SEMINAR ON PAYROLL SERVICES

- Tax Laws
- Legal Issues
- Employee benefit plans for small employers

TUESDAY
OCTOBER 27, 1998
7:00 PM



GREIDER'S TAX SERVICE

2733 Willow Street Pike
Willow Street, PA 17584
(717) 464-2951
Fax (717) 464-2013

Susan Greider