

dhia

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Web site <http://www.dhia.psu.edu>
Pennsylvania Dairy Herd Improvement Association
DHIA Service Center, Orchard Road, University Park, PA 16802

DHIA County Banquets

Date	County	Place & Time
November 14	Susquehanna	Fairdale Church noon
November 14	Lackawanna	Green Grave Grange 7.45 pm
November 16	Somerset	Berlin Community Building 7 pm
November 19	York	Thomasville Fire Company 7 pm
November 19	Lycoming	Hoss's, Williamsport 7 pm
November 20	Tioga	Edgewoods, Mansfield 7:30 pm
November 20	Northampton	Blue Valley Farm Show 7pm
November 20	Snyder	Middleburg Fire Hall 7 pm
November 20	Clearfield/Jefferson	
November 23	Franklin	Gibbles Restaurant, Greencastle 7 pm
November 23	Fayette	Fairground Office, 7:00pm
November 24	Fulton	Needmore Fire Hall, 7:00pm
December 3	Beaver	Extension office 7:30 pm
December 8	Berks	Ag Service Center noon
December 10	Adams	York Springs Fire Hall 7pm
January 7	Mercer	Mercer Co Extension Bldg 11:30 am
January 7	Schuylkill	Dairy Days 10-2 PSU Schuylkill campus
January 16	Dauphin	County Buffet on R 22
January ???	Indiana	in conjunction with Genex
February 2	Washington	West Alexandria Church, (tentative date)
February 2	None	

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 — 2.26 bu., 4.05 cwt.
- Wheat, No. 2 — 2.66 bu., 4.44 cwt.
- Barley, No. 3 — 1.40 bu., 2.99 cwt.
- Oats, No. 2 — 1.36 bu., 4.24 cwt.
- Soybeans, No. 1 — 5.13 bu., 8.57 cwt.
- Ear Corn — 56.14 ton, 2.81 cwt.
- Alfalfa Hay — 119.75 ton, 5.99 cwt.
- Mixed Hay — 121.13 ton, 6.06 cwt.
- Timothy Hay — 113.63 ton, 5.68 cwt.

QUESTION: Recently we purchased a TMR (totally mixed ration) mixer and started to manage our feeding accordingly. Almost immediately, our cows got bellyaches and would lie down, kick at their stomachs and bawl. We then started to feed more often and the problem subsided. I've read where producers feed once per day and get along fine. What could be wrong in our case?

ANSWER: In this case, the key word is "feeding."

Most often when problems like this occur, the feed man or person balancing the diet is to blame, in the eyes of the dairyman. The feeders at this farm are to be commended on recognizing the problem to be in the on-farm feeding management.

The paper ration that was created looked to have all the necessary components for successful performance. The main ingredients were corn silage, dry hay, and grain.

When trying out the new mixer, corn silage went in first, followed by grain, and lastly the dry hay. Trouble started when the hay would not mix in, but rather balled up by itself in the allotted mixing time of 3 to 4 minutes.

Because problems can occur with the hay mixing into the TMR, it may be removed and fed separately. This is one of the most common mistakes in TMR feeding.

TMR, as we all know, can only work to its full potential when total adhesion (of ingredients) occurs.

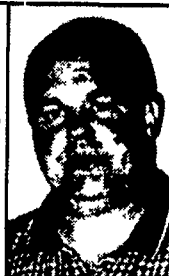
This herd was used to cafeteria-style feeding of individual ingredients, fed multiple times per day.

Success in this feeding style varies according to management capabilities. Switching to a TMR system also carries along with it a need for topnotch feeding management.

This farm had been very suc-

Dairyman To Dairyman

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cessful in managing their previous feeding program. Switching to a TMR system left them with the notion that a safer feed management program was in place and good cow sense was temporarily abandoned.

We talked about the type of program they want for the future and this advice was offered:

- When possible, stress the total in TMR.
- For better blending, put long hay or chopped hay, as in this case, in the mixer first.
- Determine mixing time for your farm and don't rely totally on the manufacturer's suggestions.
- Load into mixer with your wet source of forage before the concentrate portion.

• When using only dry hay to grain, use a binder product such as molasses, wet brewers, or tallow.

• Feed for a minimum of 5 percent refusal and this should be the same as beginning feed.

• Most importantly, inform your feed programmer of any need or desire to alter your TMR from what is in your plan. As an example, if you fed your hay outside of your TMR mix as this herd did, then make allowances, such as not feeding the corn silage and grain mix (that was considered a TMR) all at one time. Force cows to eat the long fiber that they need to maintain rumen health.

These are some tips offered to this farm to solve a feed management and delivery problem.

As one last thought, keep in

mind that a TMR has the same requirement for details as much as any other type of feeding program.

As a TMR user of 20 years, I've probably made most of the mistakes that I hear of today in the field. The single most costly thing about a TMR is not the \$13,000 or higher price tag on the mixer, but rather the failure to use a TMR the way it works best — total!

Junior Exhibitor Scholarship Deadline Nov. 23

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Exhibitors in the junior shows at the state Farm Show here in January must send in their applications by Nov. 23.

Anyone pursuing an advanced degree or wanting to enter a trade or technical school, who enroll as a 4-H or FFA member in the Farm Show beef, sheep, or swine junior contests, must fill out an application to qualify for the scholarship. An application can be obtained by calling the Farm Show office at (717) 787-2905.

Last year about \$2,000 per scholarship was awarded to qualified applicants, according to Ken Winebark, Myerstown, chairman of the scholarship committee. For more information about the application, contact Winebark at (717) 866-5881.

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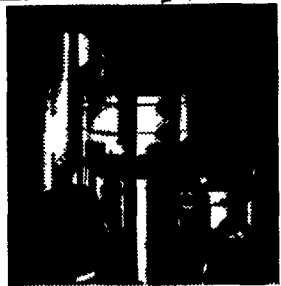
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