

**Dairyman To Dairyman**

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PA DHIA  
Consulting  
Dairyman



ing by all members of the team. Will the herd get to the 60-pound average of a few months ago? Probably not. Can we make some low cost changes to increase production? I feel certain that we can, and I believe the best way to reach higher production goals is to plan now to eliminate the factors leading to low production.

Soybeans, No. 1 — 5.35 bu., 8.93 cwt.	Ear Corn — 59.07 ton, 2.95 cwt.
Alfalfa Hay — 115.50 ton, 5.78 cwt.	Mixed Hay — 115.50 ton, 5.78 cwt.
Timothy Hay — 110.00 ton, 5.5 cwt.	



Scott Williams  
Training Coordinator

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Web site <http://www.dhia.psu.edu>  
Pennsylvania Dairy Herd Improvement Association  
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I like to look a little further at this report and see what makes that average.

A potential problem was noted in that most cows in early lactation made up the lowest MUN values that were part of that average.

We also saw that the very highest MUN was 14.2. Sometimes in low producing cows, we have this very narrow MUN range. During early lactation, it is rare not to find any cows with MUN values at 16 to 20.

A question was raised about adequate protein in early lactation cows. We looked at other parameters dealing with this question and saw that cows were not peaking at all.

Herd summary II showed 41 days to peak.

In other words, first test day is the highest and goes down from there.

Again we think of protein in early lactation.

The nutritionist will be asked about increasing the ratio of degradable protein to carbohydrate especially in those early cows.

We now talked about the feed with emphasis on the forage portion. The family is aware of the

low quality of the haylage that is currently being fed. We talked about plans to overcome this problem. Substituting a small quantity of good forage for poor will pay big dividends.

Time will tell if we are successful at raising production. The essential thing to remember is that we used DHIA records in several capacities.

Number one, we looked at past performance to set realistic goals.

Number two, we got past blaming the feed man and got on to solving the problem.

Number three, we pinpointed some areas of concern in our feeding program.

Number four, the best approach at problem solving is level think-

**Average Farm Feed Costs For Handy Reference**

Corn, No.2y — 2.33 bu., 4.17 cwt.
Wheat, No. 2 — 2.70 bu., 4.50 cwt.
Barley, No. 3 — 1.54 bu., 3.29 cwt.
Oats, No. 2 — 1.37 bu., 4.28 cwt.

**QUESTION:** Our cows' milk average dropped severely when we started the new high moisture corn last month and we cannot turn it around. Is there something you could suggest to help us?

**ANSWER:** A while back, I happened to be in the area where this herd is located. I decided to take the opportunity to talk with the family, look at the cows, and put information from their DHIA reports into the barn to see if anything can be done to help a 43-pound average.

The DHIA reports told the same story as the dairyman. Production was off by close to 20 pounds.

Herd summary I showed that normally the herd drops during this time of year, compared to May and June, but this year the drop was more severe.

Past records indicate the cows should be milking 50 to 55 pounds, although the dairyman would like 60 to 65 pounds, like production in early summer.

Casual observations were made as we made our way around the barn.

Cows were in very good condition. Many cows were standing while chewing their cud. Air quality was decent. The cow comfort was above average as noted by no blemishes on hocks and several cows got up, demonstrating ease at doing so.

The one thing that bothered me was, upon watching several cows drop manure, large amounts of yellow corn specks were seen.

When we looked at the high moisture corn, it was apparent that this was the source of the specks.

The new corn was put in very dry and had little fermented smell.

It was processed by a roller mill coming out of the silo and contained a fair amount of cob, retained by the combine.

The first change we discussed was to tighten down the rolls as much as possible so the corn would become feed instead of manure fortifier.

This change should make more feed available for milk.

We next looked at the MUN report. The average was 11.1. This is in the middle of the range and could easily be overlooked as being okay.

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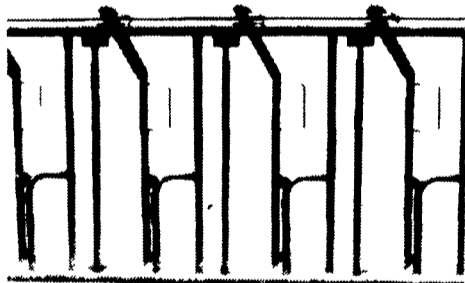
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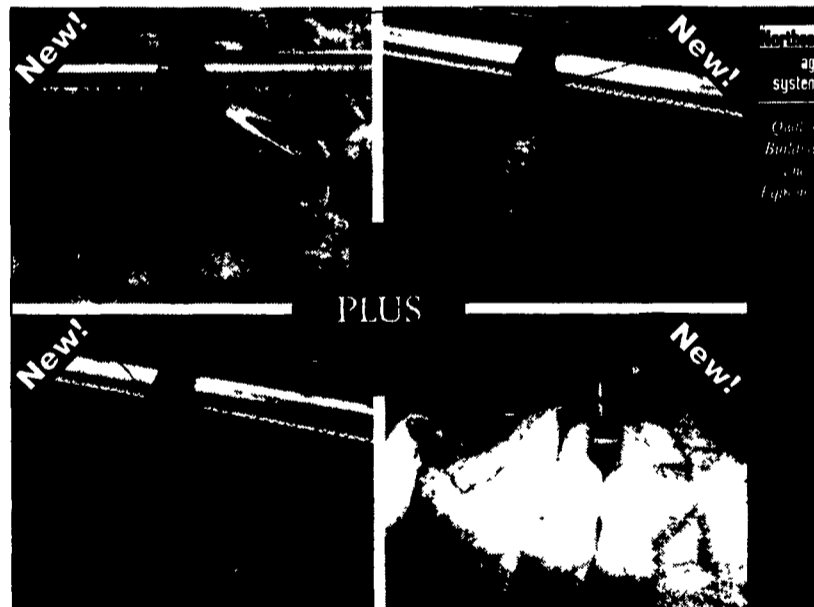
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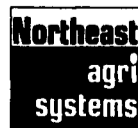


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