

# Trouble-Shooting The Causes Of Low Conception

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Co.) — Below is a list of the  
likely causes of poor concep-  
tion.

ated. Critically evaluate your  
estrous detection program.  
High incidence of uterine in-  
fection: recent evidence sug-  
gests there may be a higher in-  
cidence of subclinical infection  
during the initial breeding per-  
iod than was originally be-  
lieved to exist. Is the dry cow  
environment and calving area  
relatively clean? Are the early  
dry cows and the transitional  
group fed a balanced ration?  
Cows inseminated when not in  
estrus are more likely to devel-

op an infection. Periparturient  
problems such as retained pla-  
centa frequently result in uter-  
ine infection. One secondary  
benefit of an estrus synchroni-  
zation program using prostag-  
landin is that it may help to  
clear a uterine infection or en-  
hance uterine health.

3. Nutritional factors: exces-  
sive weight loss, deficient en-  
ergy and crude protein or ex-  
cess degradable protein intake,  
gross over conditioning, imbal-  
ance of calcium, phosphorous,  
vitamins, A, D, E and intake of  
moldy feeds. You should eval-  
uate your feeding program, check  
basic feeding practices, avoid  
overfeeding of grain, and ana-  
lyze milk samples for Milk Urea  
Nitrogen. Obviously, avoid feed-  
ing moldy forages or grains.

4. Heat stress: high tempera-  
ture has been shown to increase  
uterine temperature and thus  
increase embryonic death. Con-  
sider methods to reduce thermal  
stress and improve cow comfort.

5. Disease: leptospirosis, BVD,  
IBR/IPV, haemophilus, ureaplasma,  
vibriosis are the major diseases  
causing embryonic mortality. In  
consultation with your veterinar-  
ian develop

a strategy to test for these dis-  
eases, especially BVD and lep-  
tospiriosis, and develop an ef-  
fective vaccination program.  
Vibriosis and trichomoniasis  
are venereal diseases that can  
be spread by natural service.

6. Improper insemination  
technique and use of semen  
damaged during storage or  
handling; improper semen  
placement, exposure of frozen  
semen to elevated temperatures  
and cold shock of thawed se-  
men can severely affect concep-  
tion rates. Attend a retrain-

ing session for artificial in-  
semination technique and  
purchase semen from reputable  
sources.

Through the use of proper  
testing and critical evaluation  
of management practices and  
techniques the cause of low  
conception rates can be identi-  
fied. It generally requires a  
team approach involving the  
nutritionist, veterinarian, AI  
personnel, the management  
team and persistence to resolve  
the problem.

## PA DHIA Revises Regions

**SCOTT WILLIAMS**  
Training Coordinator  
STATE COLLEGE (Centre  
Co.) — Pennsylvania DHIA is  
proud to announce two new ad-  
ditions to their field staff. PA  
DHIA is making changes in re-  
gion 4 and 6. Due to the ex-  
tended illness of Dave Shenk,  
Diane McIlwain was been  
named to head the newly  
formed region 6. Diane has  
been with DHIA for 18 years.  
She recently worked as a senior  
technician in region 3 and more  
recently was attending to the  
daily duties of managing re-  
gion 4. Please help welcome  
Diane to her new position.

George Cashell will now as-  
sume the responsibilities of  
managing region 4. George has  
been with DHIA since 1985.  
He maintains a circuit in  
Franklin County of about 18  
herds and until his recent pro-  
motion was also a senior tech-  
nician for region 4. Pennsylva-  
nia DHIA would like everyone  
to welcome George to his new  
position.

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.

## MUN Saves Money And Environment

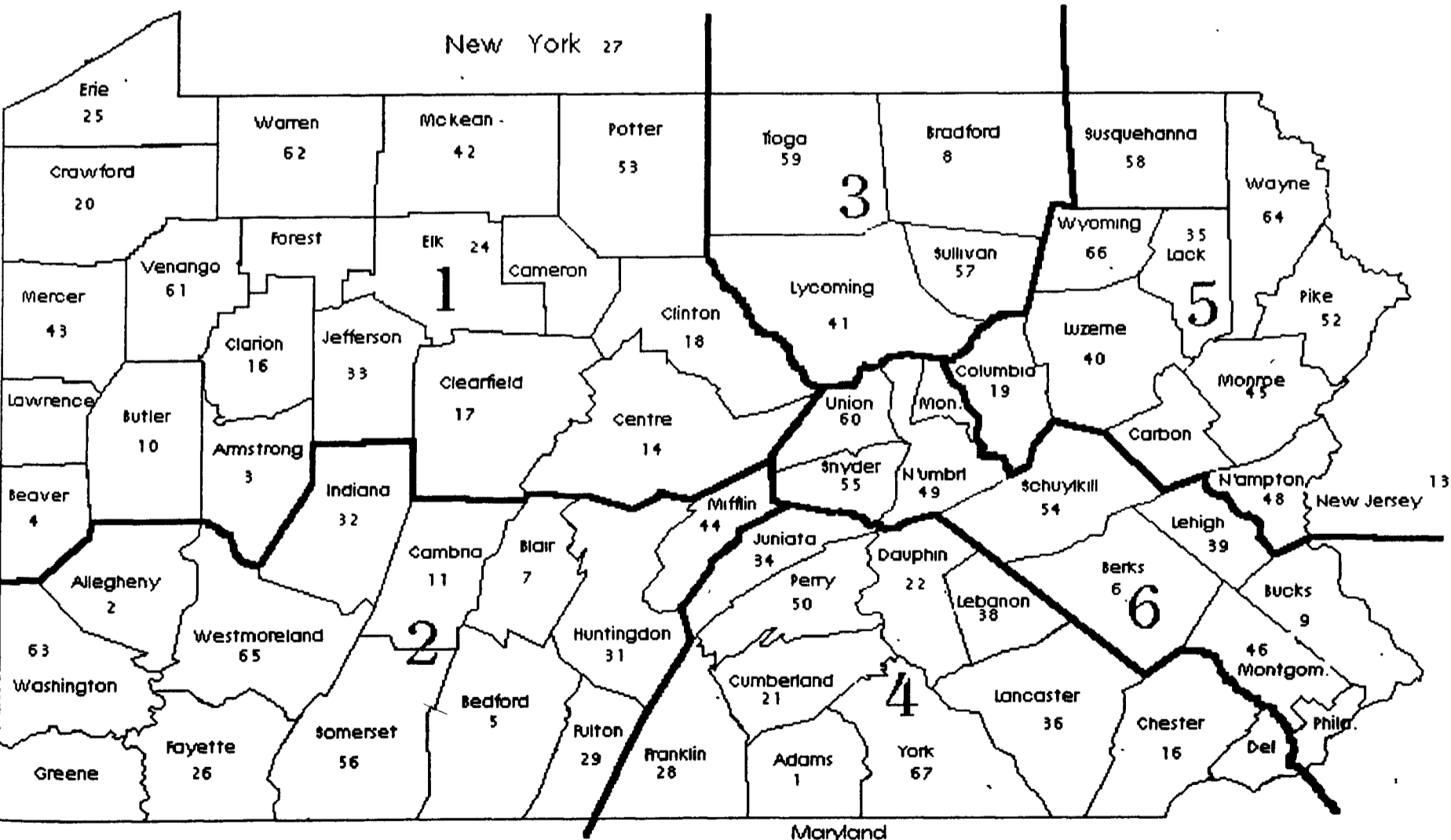
**SCOTT WILLIAM**  
Training Coordinator  
STATE COLLEGE (Centre  
Co.) — Producers in the mas-  
sive Chesapeake Bay area  
could save themselves \$50 per  
cow in reduced protein costs  
and improved production, and  
reduced nitrogen loading of the  
bay at the same time. How? By  
routinely using milk urea nitro-  
gen (MUN) testing.

Jamie Jonker, with the Uni-  
versity of Maryland, estimates  
overfeeding protein results in

4,400 tons of excess non point  
nitrogen loading to the bay an-  
nually, or roughly 2 percent of  
the nitrogen flowing into the  
bay. By routinely using MUN  
test and adjusting rations ac-  
cordingly, that overfeeding can  
be reduced. Milk production  
for the 760,000 cows in the bay  
drainage area would also likely  
increase, says Jonker. That's  
because digesting excess nitro-  
gen requires energy that could  
otherwise be used for improv-  
ing milk production.



# Region Managers



Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6
Dean Aden	Larry Hay	Linda Sticklin	David Shenk	Gary Williams	Diane McIlwain
Route 2	RR 3 Box 39A	RR 6 Box 115	RR 2 Box 5	RR 1 Box 1015	RR 1 Box 219A
Dayton PA 16222	Berlin PA 15530	Wellsboro PA 16901	Newport PA 17074	Starrucca PA 18462	Liberty PA 16930
814-257-8572	814-267-4754	717-724-7173	717-567-9100	717-727-3158	717-324-5160
2301rmgr@dhia.psu.edu	2302rmgr@vm.dhia.psu.edu	grandma@epix.net	2304rmgr@dhia.psu.edu	droogles@nep.net	cow@epix.net
Director of Field	Dean Amick	Service Center	University Park PA 16802	800-344-8378	dda@dhia.psu.edu
Marketing Manager	David Bigelow	RR 2 Box 263	Williamsburg PA 16693	814-832-1907	dab@dhia.psu.edu
Training Coordinator	Scott Williams	Service Center	University Park PA 16802	800-344-8378	sgw@dhia.psu.edu