

# Pa. Farm Bureau Salutes State's Number One Ag Industry

CAMP HILL (Cumberland Co.) — June is dairy month and Pennsylvania Farm Bureau wants to know, what better way to salute Pennsylvania's dairy producers than to pass the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact in the House of Representatives?

We are really hoping to get the compact passed in the House before the legislators break for the summer," said Guy Donaldson, president of Pennsylvania Farm Bureau.

"We feel it is crucial to Pennsylvania's dairy industry that the compact is passed. This proposed legislation will provide a safety

net for dairy producers and a stable supply of milk for consumers," said Donaldson.

Farm Bureau has remained steadfast in its effort to get Pennsylvania into the compact.

"We know that a thriving dairy industry is vital to the future of Pennsylvania agriculture," said Donaldson.

"In addition to the compact we are working to not only improve profits, but to control costs through local tax reform, and by keeping a lid on unnecessary and potentially costly environmental and food safety regulations. These efforts will benefit all of agriculture, including Pennsylvania's dairymen, and the consumer."

Dairy is the largest segment of Pennsylvania's agricultural industry. It generates more than \$1.5 billion for the state's economy.

According to the National Agriculture Statistics Service, Pennsylvania's 10,200 dairy farm families with their 639,000 cows produce 10.7 billion pounds of milk and rank fourth in the nation in milk production.

Since it was designated in 1992, milk has been Pennsylvania's official beverage.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau is a voluntary, statewide farm organization which represents 27,000 farm and rural families in 54 county farm bureaus.

# Understand The Records Rating System

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. — DHIA no longer designates test plans as "official" or "unofficial," thus providing dairy producers the ability to choose the amount of testing that they need.

As a result, not all production records are calculated with an equal amount of information and supervision.

Therefore, it is up to a buyer of cattle to decide if the record provided has been produced under sufficient testing procedures.

Holstein Association USA has developed a means of better understanding how a record was pro-

duced. The Association's TriStar production records system involves showing stars and Data Collection Ratings (DCRs) to indicate how much testing and monitoring went into a record.

Records shown on Official Holstein Pedigrees<sup>SM</sup> are designated this way and the Association is encouraging the use of this effective system in advertisements, sale catalogs and other promotion efforts.

The stars show which TriStar service option an animal was enrolled in while the record was being produced.

Three stars (★★★) are used for Premier records which require the highest level of testing and monitoring, two stars (★★) for Deluxe records and one star (★) for Custom records.

The stars are similar to the three-letter symbols that once were used, such as DHR for DHIR records.

DCRs are new values that indicate the amount of information collected through the DHIA system.

Higher DCRs mean that more supervision, milk weights, and component samples were involved in the calculation of the lactation total.

A dairy cattle buyer has every right to make decisions based on all of the information that can be made available.

If stars and DCRs are not shown in an advertisement, the record shown may have been made with a traditional test plan with two milkings weighed each month or with a quarterly AM/PM test plan with only three milkings weighed during the entire 305-day lactation. Buyers won't know unless the records are labelled.

For more information about the Holstein Association's TriStar program call 800-952-5200 and speak with a customer service representative.

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