



**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

**QUESTION:** How do we begin efforts that would result in lower somatic cell counts in our herd? When will we need to comply with new standards of 400,000 SCC?

**ANSWER:** Somatic Cell Count standards have been on the discussion table for quite some time.

There has been talk that our dairy industry needs to catch up with the rest of the world and their standards for SCC.

Recently, I read that the National Conference on Interstate Milk Shipments took "no action" on the proposal out of the National Mastitis Council to lower legal limits of SCC to 400,000 from the current 750,000 limit.

Aside from what is legal or not, there are other considerations that benefit our bottom line by lowering the SCC in our herds.

Lowering SCC results in fewer dollars spent on treating cows that become clinically infected with mastitis. Along with this is a reduction in dollars spent to provide treatment of the more severe cases by a professional veterinarian.

With lowered SCC, our labor

expenses then shift to something more profitable than caring for hospice cows and culling practices will shift away from the involuntary to voluntary.

We are now able to sell milk that would otherwise have to be discarded due to low quality or drug residues.

Lastly, and most importantly, we can ship more milk per dollar invested by reducing the nagging effects of subclinical mastitis. This can conservatively result in 1.5 pounds more milk per cow per day, just by lowering the linear SCC by 1.

At the very heart of reaching our goal in lowering SCC is the DHIA system.

Yes, we can establish good management practices on our farms based on research, but you need to realize that research comes from recording measurements.

Within our own herds, we have the cows tell us where our management style needs to be better. We do this when we use our records.

The worst thing that can happen is that we blindly attack one problem by changing everything.

The result may be lower SCC, but if we do not know what really gave us results, we can slip right back into the same bad management.

One way to look at your records is to view a graph similar to the example provided (see graph), to see if trends occur during different times of the year.

When looking at this graph, concentrate on the differences

between summer and winter months.

Things such as the environment can influence SCC.

Do we have good fly control? Should we step up stall management when it becomes hot and humid?

What about milking procedure differences when we are busy in the fields?

More questions could be asked, but it is important to note that SCC problems are not constant during the course of the year.

We may want to look at some other things like SCC differences between groups, or maybe we need to look at SCC differences between lactations.

Once we answer these questions, we have a better chance of solving our problems.

Tools offered through PA DHIA are available for dairymen to use.

The majority of my time is spent doing these types of record interpretations. Should you need help in this area, feel free to contact me.

*Dairyman to Dairyman is a weekly column by George Cudoc, a consulting dairyman to PA DHIA. He*

can be reached by calling PA DHIA Service Center at (800) 344-8378, or by calling him directly at (724) 625-8971, fax (724) 625-8972; or e-mail [GCudoc@fyi.net](mailto:GCudoc@fyi.net)

**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 — 2.42 bu., 4.34 cwt.

Wheat, No. 2 — 2.44 bu., 4.08 cwt.

Barley, No. 3 — 1.38 bu., 2.96 cwt.

Oats, No. 2 — 1.44 bu., 4.49 cwt.

Soybeans, No. 1 — 4.36 bu., 7.28 cwt.

Ear Corn — 73.55 ton, 3.68 cwt.

Alfalfa Hay — 95.00 ton, 4.75 cwt.

Mixed Hay — 93.00 ton, 4.65 cwt.

Timothy Hay — 97.50 ton, 4.88 cwt.



**Need Fans?**

**American Coolair Fans**

**Call Northeast Agri Systems**

**Lititz, PA 1-800-673-2580**

**Federalburg, MD 1-800-735-6361**

**FD 36**

Direct drive 36" fan with 115-230 volt, 1/2 HP motor in wood crate with guards and cord

**\$175**

**NCF 48**

Belt driven 48" fan with 230 volt, 1 HP energy efficient motor, in wood crate with guards

**\$355**

**QUANTITY DISCOUNTS FOR 10 OR MORE!**  
Other Models On Special

Electrical cords, hanging hardware, shutters, thermostats and all other fans on special  
Call for free estimates, etc.

Authorized **CHORE TIME** master distributor since 1982

**Northeast agri systems**

Northeast Agri Systems, Inc.

Flyway Business Park  
139A West Airport Road  
Lititz, PA 17543  
1-800-673-2580  
717-569-2702  
Store Hours Monday-Friday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm  
24 Hour-7 Day Repair Service

Delvama Office  
305 University Ave.  
Federalburg, MD  
1-800-753-6361  
410-754-9434

VISA, M/C, MAE, FEDERAL

**← L.M. RISSLER → CHAIN MIXERS - TMR MIXERS**

- Are Lower Cost Than A Reel Mixer.
- Handle Feed More Gently Than An Auger Mixer.
- Load Easier Than A Tumble Mixer.
- Should Outlast Any Steel Mixer.

**A Fluffy Mix Results From The Gentle Tumbling Action.**

448 Orchard Road  
Mohnton, PA 19540  
717-484-0551

**← L.M. RISSLER → CHAIN MIXERS - TMR MIXERS**

**CAUTION**

USE OF THIS MACHINE MAY RESULT IN HIGHER PROFITS