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Question: Since January the protein payment tests from our milk plant were lower than DHIA test. I know that this is due to a change in payment tests to true protein as mandated by federal milk marketing orders. Now our DHIA and milk plant protein test is the same. Would you explain?

I received a half dozen or so calls recently concerning this. On May 1, 2000 all DHIA organizations across the country made a switch to true protein testing and reporting. In Pennsylvania those dairy

producers that opted for MUN testing had the true protein as well as crude reported since 1995. That has changed and now only true protein will be reported to stay abreast of milk payment testing.

Dairy producers that are slow to adapt to this new thinking behind true protein, can still think in more traditional terms by applying this formula to the newly reported true protein values.

True Protein % (TP%) + .19% = Crude Protein% (past traditional protein)

In time this will be thought of as in the past and nobody will

need to think of conversions. The move became necessary so that uniformity between DHIA management information and income determination would get back on track.

The use of component information in the past to troubleshoot certain problems will have to be adjusted a bit to fit with the new numbers. For instance, Holstein cows are thought to be normal at 3.6% fat and 3.1% protein. We also believe the ratio between the two to be 85 to 88% ($3.1 / 3.6 = 86\%$). I guess if we are to stay consistent in this thinking, Holsteins will now be normal at 3.6% fat and 2.91% protein ($3.1 - .19 = 2.91$). This would change the comparison ratio to 79 to 83%.

Another tool we use in determining normal nutritional function is to look at fat-protein inversions. A herd that would have 30% inversions ($\%fat \leq \%protein$) in the old way of reporting will look much better if we think of protein in the old way. Theoretically, this herd could have anywhere from 0 to 30% inversions just by the new testing and not changing the

need to adapt to change. We often management. On the average most herds will see a decrease in inversions due to the reporting of true protein by 20 to 30%. This particular herd with true protein used changed to a total of 22% inversions which is a 26.7% reduction ($((30 - 22) / 30) \times 100 = 26.7$). The best way to deal with this is to stay with conventional thinking and change the inversion formula to ($\%fat \leq (\%protein + 19)$). Now a cow with a 3.2% fat and a 3.01% protein would be considered an inversion.

Changes are inevitable in our lives. This is one example of the

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ask our cows to make changes. It is now up to us to change our thinking about protein testing and what the new numbers that we will be seeing mean. In the meantime, convert if you must, six months from now it will be second nature.

Junior Judging School Deadline Approaching

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — The Pennsylvania Junior Holsteins Judging Schools will be held in July 10 - 11 and July 12 - 13. The Association encourages juniors to sign up soon.

The Western school will be on Monday, July 10, and Tuesday, July 11, from 12 NOON to 12 NOON. It will be hosted by the Mercers County Holstein Club and taught by Steve Moff from Columbiana, OH.

The Eastern school will be hosted by the Susquehanna County Club on Wednesday, July 12, and Thursday, July 13, from 12 NOON to 12 NOON. Matthew Day from Shippensburg will be teaching the school.

Both schools are open to all youth interested in learning about dairy cattle judging. Teachers will cover the basics of animal evaluation and reason giving. Individuals who attend will have the opportunity to learn terminology, animal and class breakdowns, and how to effectively give reasons.

The cost of the school is \$25 for those staying overnight, which includes school costs, hotel room, and evening meal. For commuters, the cost is \$15, which covers the school costs and evening meals.

This year, a second member of the same family who attends will receive \$5.00 off of their registration cost.

For more information, contact the Pennsylvania Holstein Association at 839 Benner Pike in State College. Call (814) 234-0364 or fax (814) 234-1698. The deadline for entries is June 26, 2000.

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