

dhia

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to access this information. I would like to concentrate specifically on differences between new and chronic infections. Your attempts at treatment will often be on these chronic cows with little long lasting results. New infections are cows that had a linear SCC of 4 for the first time during the current lactation. Chronic cows are those that reached this same score two or more times during the lactation.

What I find to be of particular interest is that the level of chronically infected cows stays pretty much the same for the herd over the past two years as indicated in the two right columns. The other thing that is noted is the strong correlation between the eight months (indicated in red) where levels of new infections are highest and the resulting increase in the bulk tank SCC. It becomes apparent that we need to shift our focus on mastitis management from treatment to prevention if we are to be successful at lowering SCC

Question: We would like to lower our somatic cell count. We use our DHIA records to identify problem cows and would like an opinion on how to handle them.

If you are looking for someone to give you a magic potion to cure cows of mastitis, I am not the one. Treating cows with existing mastitis or high cell counts should be planned with your veterinarian. It appears that you are on the right track by using records found on

the SCC Management Report to properly identify cows that are the most problematic and need to be high on the priority list. When it comes to managing SCC, prevention has more impact than curing attempts. I would like to show you some information that your cows have been providing for the past couple of years that really emphasizes this.

I used both the Pa. DHIA SCC Management Report and the Pa. DHIA Herd Summary Report II

Your veterinarian also does not have a magic potion for mastitis woes. What he does have is the knowledge and experience at helping you work toward mastitis prevention management. You should contact him today to set up a program for your farm. Continue to use your DHIA SCC

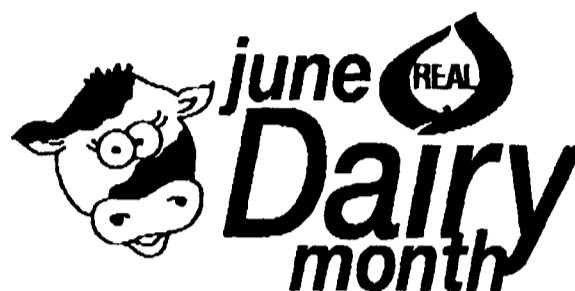
records to help determine what that strategy should be and if your new or current plan is working. As a goal you should limit new infections each month to 5% as noted on your reports. If you can attain this goal, then your bulk tank SCC should drop under 200,000 consistently.

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.

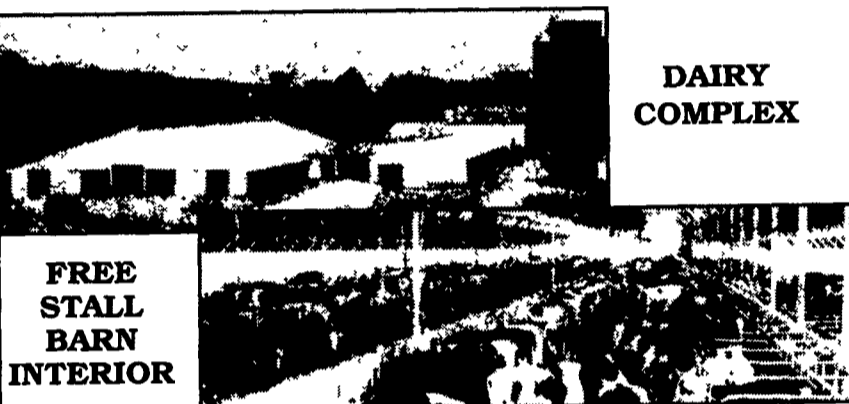
Remember, these are averages, so you will need to adjust your figures up or down according to your location and the quality of your crop.

- Corn, No.2y — 2.54 bu., 4.55 cwt.
- Wheat, No.2 — 2.37 bu., 3.95 cwt.
- Barley, No.3 — 1.75 bu., 3.74 cwt.
- Oats, No.2 — 1.54 bu., 4.81 cwt.
- Soybeans, No.1 — 4.93 bu., 8.22 cwt.
- Ear Corn — 78.44 ton, 3.92 cwt.
- Alfalfa Hay — 123.75 ton, 6.19 cwt.
- Mixed Hay — 120.00 ton, 6.0 cwt.
- Timothy Hay — 126.25 ton, 6.31 cwt.



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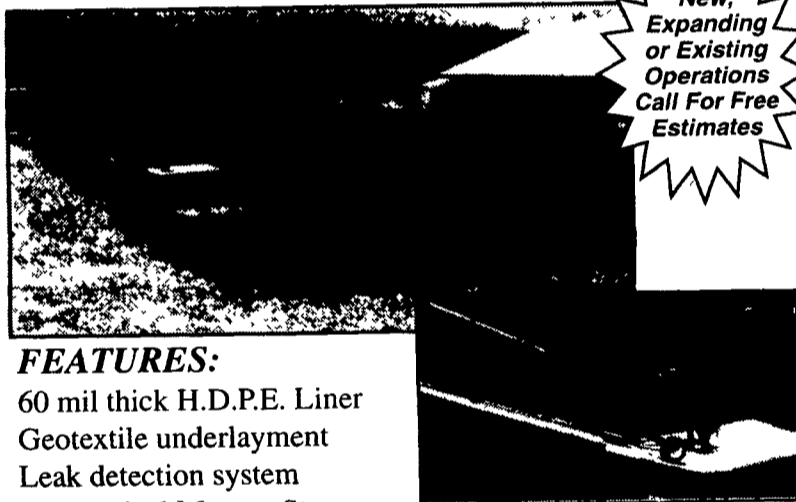
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