

**dhia**

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### Average Farm Feed Costs for Handy Reference

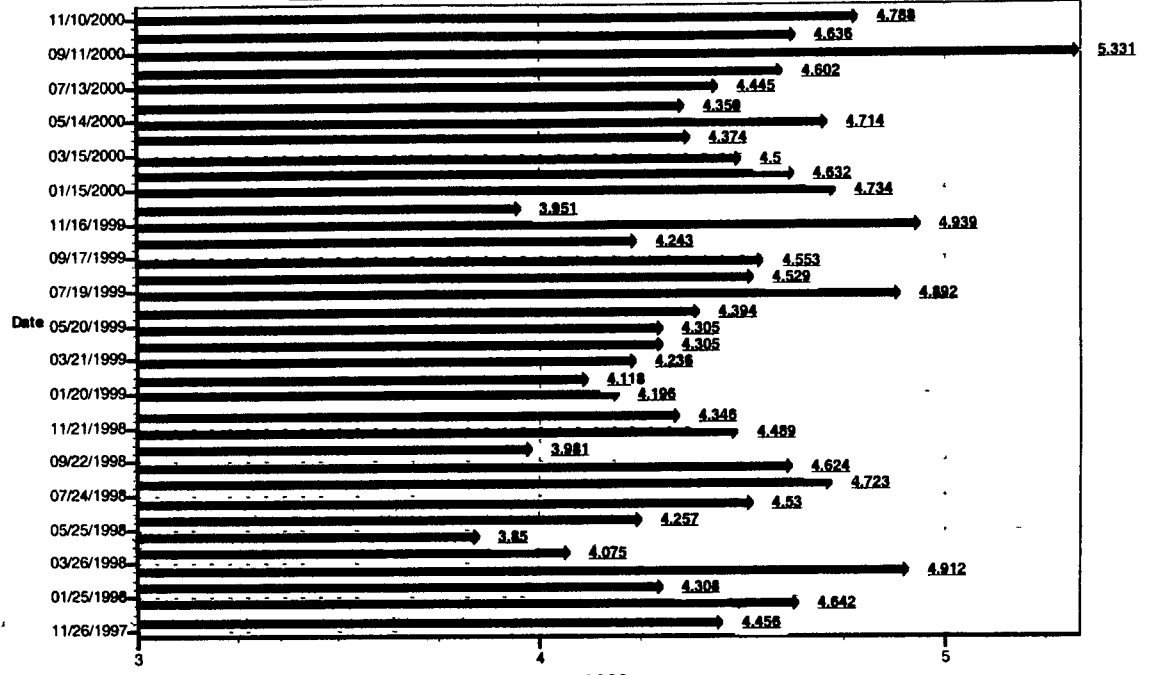
To help farmers across the state to have handy reference of commodity input costs in their feeding operations for DHIA record sheets or to develop

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 — 1.96 bu., 3.50 cwt.  
Wheat, No.2 — 2.23 bu., 3.72 cwt.  
Barley, No.3 — 1.39 bu., 2.96 cwt.  
Oats, No.2 — 1.36 bu., 4.24 cwt.  
Soybeans, No.1 — 4.5 bu., 7.52 cwt.  
Ear Corn — 57.61 ton, 2.88 cwt.  
Alfalfa Hay — 105.00 ton, 5.25 cwt.  
Mixed Hay — 106.25 ton, 5.31 cwt.  
Timothy Hay — 108.75 ton, 5.44 cwt.

**Bulk Tank Somatic Cell Average Past 3 Years As Linear Score Barn Owl 2000**



**Question:** Reproductive performance over the past several years has gotten worse. We have tried all the normal things that most dairymen do, with the help of our veterinarian. Is there some influence that we may have overlooked?

Reproductive performance is a subject that I leave solely in hands of people more skilled than myself. I would like to report on some research that I read about lately and how it might apply to this situation.

At the 2000 Regional Meeting of the National Mastitis Council, personnel at the University of Tennessee presented a paper entitled "Clinical and Subclinical Mastitis During Early Lactation Impairs Reproductive Performance of Dairy Cows". These were the conclusions at the end of that presentation: (1) occurrence of mastitis before first service delayed days to first service, from increased days to conception and elevated services per conception, (2) occurrence of mastitis during the breeding period increased days open and doubled the number of services per conception compared to uninfected cows, (3) reproductive performance was not affected if mastitis occurred after establishment of pregnancy, (4)

both Gram-negative and Gram-positive mastitis pathogens decreased reproductive performance similarly, (5) sub clinical and clinical mastitis equally reduced reproductive performance, and (6) experimentally-induced mastitis increased concentrations of cortisol, increased serum PFG-2alpha, and elevated body temperature.


As this applies to this farm we should first look at the mastitis trends of this herd measured by somatic cell count.

We can easily see the increased trend in Somatic Cell Count over the past three years. I further dug into the information and turned up the following.

We see that the big influence on the cell count is on the cows that we are breeding or getting ready to breed. In the first 60 days in milk (the voluntary waiting period) we see by far the highest infection rate this year. We see the same thing in cows during the breeding period as indicated by the list for cows up till 130 days in milk.

I then looked at all the current pregnant cows. 23 cows became pregnant less than 130 DIM and 75% did not have a LSCC exceeding 3 for the first three test periods. 16 cows became pregnant past 130 DIM with 63%

**Dairyman To Dairyman**



**GEORGE CUDOC**

PA DHIA Consulting Dairyman

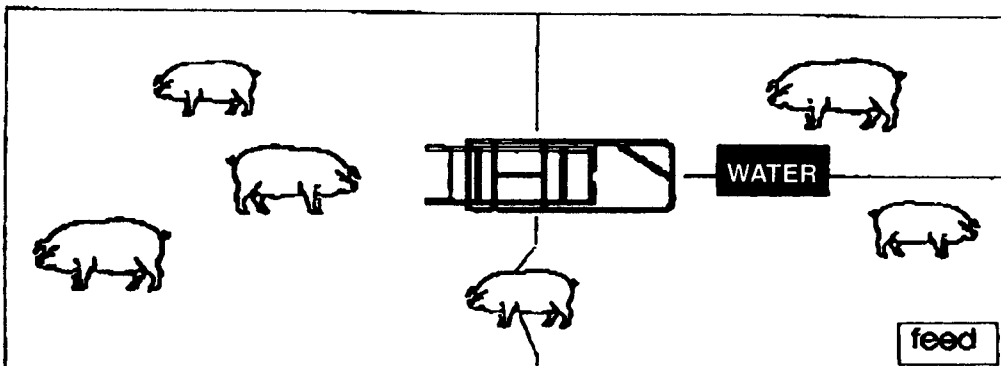
of those with one or more of the first three tests over a LSCC of 4 (infected)

Is this significant? I can't be sure but there is much at stake when we fail to keep somatic cell counts in check. We have to ask ourselves; could reproductive performance be one of them?

	Nov 00	Nov 99	Nov 98	Nov 97
<b>130DIM</b>				
#cows	39	52	48	54
LSCC	2.52	2.12	2.79	2.09
SCC	466,000	105,000	228,000	228,000
WSCC	362,000	104,000	238,000	245,000
<b>60DIM</b>				
#cows	20	26	20	13
LSCC	2.51	2.18	2.33	1.06
SCC	715,000	130,000	130,000	38,000
WSCC	522,000	137,000	141,000	42,000

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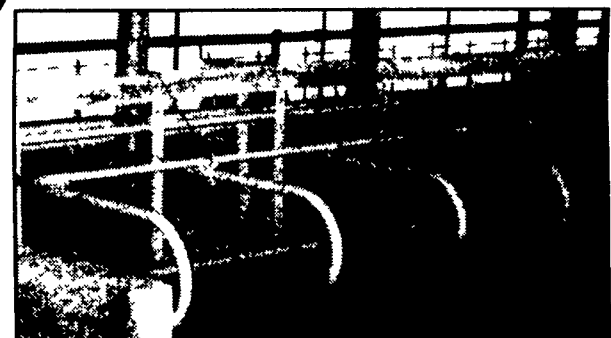
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