

# DairyOne Conducts Recordkeeping Workshops

DAVE LEFEVER  
Lancaster Farming Staff

BLUE BALL (Lancaster Co.) — Herd reports from DairyOne don't look the same as the ones dairy farmers used to receive from Pennsylvania DHIA.

That's one of the changes brought about by last year's merger of the two organizations.

To help explain the new system and answer questions, DairyOne representative George Cudoc is conducting workshops in various locations throughout the state. One of these sessions took place this week at Shady Maple Restaurant in Blue Ball. About 70 producers attended.

Cow data for DairyOne members is now processed at Dairy Records Management Systems in Raleigh, N.C. instead of the facility in State College, where the reports used to be generated.

"You have some new opportunities that you're not aware of at this time," Cudoc told the group.

"There are very few people who have the time to make the most of the records program they use on their farm," he said. Focusing on a few key tools, however, can have a positive effect on profitability.

Herd summary reports are the "largest single

change" in the new record system, according to Cudoc.

The key to keeping records that help farmers make good management decisions is to make sure that all pertinent information is entered.

For example, one goal is to reduce the size of the "breeding herd." However, if a manager decides not to breed a cow because he or she plans to cull it at the end of the lactation, and the cow is included in the data as one of the breeding herd, the report will give an inaccurate figure for the size of the breeding herd.

Managers should let their DairyOne technicians know all of this type of information so that reports reflect the herd as accurately as possible.

The "stage of lactation profile" for individual cow production is one of the most useful tools for detecting problems in the herd, Cudoc said.

The "stage of lactation profile" breaks each cow's lactation down into periods. If a cow's production is not peaking in the 41-100 day period, Cudoc said, that's a sign something is wrong.

This tool can also be used to detect other signs of trouble, such as abnormal component levels.

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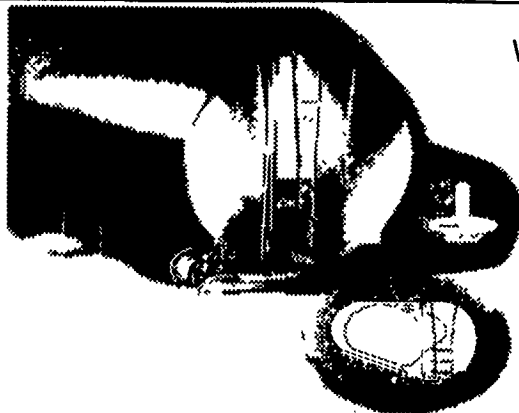
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