

FACTS FOR FARMERS



Dairy Herd Improvement Relies On Many Factors

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The long term objective of the DHIA program is spelled out in the first three letters—dairy herd improvement. Such improvement will come from increased production resulting in greater sales, culling of poorer producers, an improved breeding program resulting in better herd replacements and the satisfaction in developing a top notch herd.

The information that a member obtains from DHIA is as follows:

Total production of milk from all cows completing a lactation throughout the year.

Total pounds of butter fat produced.

Average butter fat test.

Total days in milk.

Totals, averages and numbers of all herds in each DHIA group in the province.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR
First of all comparison can be made with other dairymen. If dairying is the major enterprise on your farm, consider volume of sales which determines income. Low production per cow and small herd size definitely restricts income. Look at the averages for your particular herd and for the province as a whole. While sometimes an average is not a strong figure, it is a basis for comparison. Determine whether your herd is above or below average.

In addition to the overall herd average consider the production record of each individual cow. No doubt there are a few outstanding producers. However, the low producers are pulling down the herd average. If your herd is "loaded" with below average producers, this definitely restricts the selection of replacements to be raised from your herd. If the records of bulls available for service are studied a breeding improvement program could be started.

The problem of whether to raise or purchase herd replacements is one that crops up every year. So much depends upon the performance of the cows now in the herd. If one is not anxious to wait for production through a "grading-up" program, then perhaps the purchase of a few good replacements should be considered. The effect of these replacements will be evident for years so long as top bulls are used (and you get a run of heifer calves!).

DAYS IN MILK
What is your average days in milk? So many producers depend upon the pasture season alone for their milk production. A small number of days in milk even with good production result in low yearly sales. The situation of a short lactation period coupled with below average production, results in dairying becoming something less than a secondary enterprise. The herd owner still has all the overhead expenses and feeding, manure disposal and other time consuming chores with little or no income.

In a normal year most people have adequate feed available and the time for chores if the herd were producing for a longer length of time. Yearly production is affected by time of freshening. Records show that those cows freshening in the months of December through March have higher production than spring or summer freshening cows. While winter/feeding costs are higher, gross income is higher also and with sustained good production the milk cheque should meet all expenses. In addition to this some dairy plants pay a bonus for milk produced during the winter months and for a large volume of milk.

LABOR EFFICIENCY

A dairyman with a herd size above average but with production just average is not getting full rewards for all his efforts. The comment is sometimes heard that "I haven't the time to look after any more cows". This is too often true. Chore time may be long and labor difficult because of a cramped or poorly laid out dairy stable, or barn arrangement. These problems are most frequently encountered in the late fall, winter

and early spring, when the barn is full of cattle. In addition to milk cows in the dairy stable, frequently young calves and hogs are there also.

Overcrowding does make for more work. It could be that a renovation of the dairy stable would make chore time easier. Pens for calves and perhaps loose housing for other young cattle and heifers may be considered. Hogs should be kept in a separate building. Labor and fixed costs in relation to production must be thought of. Both the amount of time and labor available for dairy chores are limiting factors to number of cows milked. But 10 cows at 1,000 pounds of milk result in the same dollar sales of milk as 15 cows at sixty-five hundred pounds.

OTHER USES OF RECORDS

Records and Profit: DHIA studies in other areas indicate that the higher the level of production, the greater the profits. Low producing cows often fail to meet the expense of feed, labor and other costs. Therefore, production testing is the first step in sound herd management and increased net returns.

The Guardian, Charlottetown, Fri., Jan. 14, 1966. 7

Records and Culling: Culling is a hard job to do. A history of breeding performance and general health along with production is necessary in determining whether or not to keep a particular cow for another year.

Records and Selection: Can appearance alone distinguish between a high producing cow and a low producer?

Records and Feeding: Without production records, nutrient requirements can not be met effectively.

Records and Sales: Wouldn't you rather buy a cow with a good production record rather than no record at all. Similarly if you have the opportunity to sell a few replacement heifers or cows, proof of performance is a good selling point.

Records and Interest: The greater the interest one has in a project, the better job he does.

DHIA RECORDS

There is a lot of information obtained in all your DHIA records. Are you making use of it? Information on the Dairy Herd Improvement Program may be obtained from Earle Adams, Dairy Superintendent.

188 Richmond St., Charlottetown or P.O. Box 2000.

Information on Barn Renovation and Agricultural Engineering may be obtained from Graeme Linkletter, 220 Water Street, Summerside, P.E.I. Farm Record books are available at either of the above offices.

PIUSVILLE

Catechetical Institute was held at Miscouche Regional High School recently under the direction of Richard Payne of Ottawa.

Those attending from Bloomfield parish were: Rev. Fr. Pire, Mrs. Howard Arsenault, Mrs. Felix Arsenault, Mrs. Oscar Gallant, Mrs. Peter F. Gallant and Mrs. Norbert Corcoran.

Mrs. John Chaisson, Tignish was a recent guest of Mr. and Mrs. Delare Gallant and family.

The first of the series of card plays was held on Wednesday evening at the home of Mrs. Eva Jones with six tables in play. First prize went to Mrs. Leo Arsenault, Howland; second, Russel Gallant; freeze-out, Mrs. Clarence Gallant and "Vin-

cent Gallant. A delicious lunch was served by the hostess assisted by some of the ladies. Next card play at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Gallant. Mr. and Mrs. Al Arsenault and son, Miscouche spent the past weekend at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Peter F. Gallant.

FORM GROUP

TORONTO (CP)—A group of immigrants here, wishing to stress that one-third of Canadians are of neither French nor English ancestry, has formed the Citizens Civic Action Association. Spokesman Norbert Schmidtke, a writer for German language weeklies, said the association will strive for "the removal of all vestiges of discrimination."

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THE BEARDED LOOK

Ringo Starr, a member of the Beatles, sports a beard as he leaves London Airport for a ten-day Caribbean vacation. "It's just that I haven't been

working, and I haven't had to shave," he said. "I hate shaving anyway." (AP Wirephoto via cable from London)

Lesage And Justice Minister Disagree On Several Points

QUEBEC (CP)—Shortly after Claude Wagner, Quebec's justice minister, described federal delegates to last week's federal-provincial conference on organized crime spineless, Premier Jean Lesage told a press conference here his federal government colleagues have never seemed spineless to him. Questioned about a Wagner comment Tuesday that Quebec jail is a "nest of patronage," Mr. Lesage said: "Patronage

has disappeared." Mr. Wagner's comments on federal delegates to the crime conference came after he said he had returned from Ottawa. He said only Quebec and Ontario had come up with concrete proposals for aiding the fight against organized crime, they got no decisions on their proposals and federal representatives said they would remit the proposals back to committees for study.

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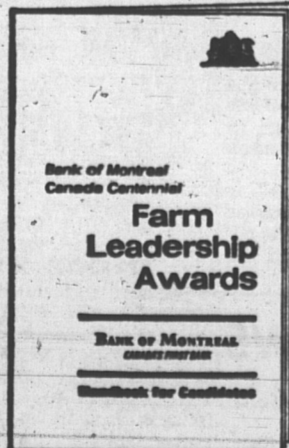
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