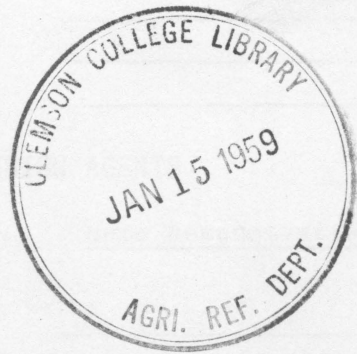


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A Guide for

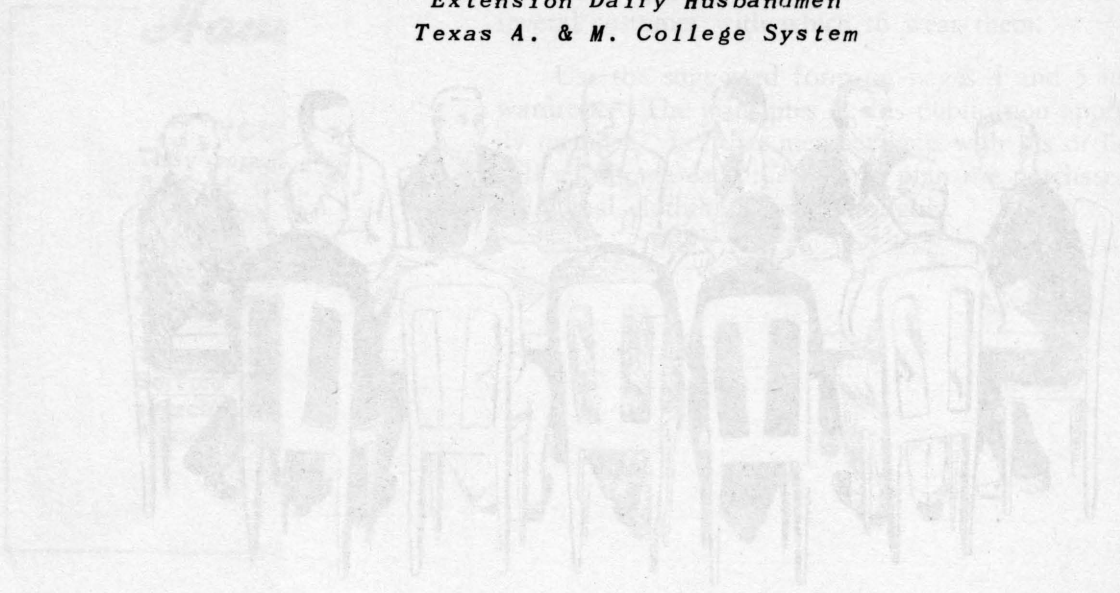
County Dairy Committees



TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE
G. G. Gibson, Director, College Station, Texas

County Dairy Committee

R. E. Burlison and A. M. Meekma
Extension Dairy Husbandmen
Texas A. & M. College System



TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
G. C. Gilson, Director, College Station, Texas

A Program for Dairy Families

THE EXTENSION DAIRY PROGRAM in any county should be one which best solves existing dairy problems. It must be based on the needs and wants of dairy families. A program which does not involve their participation and cooperation is doomed to failure.

Problems must be recognized, listed, ranked according to importance or need for solution, and finally, a program developed which will bring about their solution. Dairy families are in the best position to identify their problems and, with the help and guidance of county extension agents, they will do the best job of solving them.

This guide suggests "a starting point" for county dairy committees, or similar groups, in developing programs which will solve their problems. Problems and programs vary from county to county or from milkshed to milkshed. The program outlines are intended as guides only and should be adapted to local conditions.

MEMBERSHIP OF COUNTY DAIRY COMMITTEE

County _____ Year _____
Chairman _____ Address _____

Members

Address

- | | | |
|-----|-------|-------|
| 1. | _____ | _____ |
| 2. | _____ | _____ |
| 3. | _____ | _____ |
| 4. | _____ | _____ |
| 5. | _____ | _____ |
| 6. | _____ | _____ |
| 7. | _____ | _____ |
| 8. | _____ | _____ |
| 9. | _____ | _____ |
| 10. | _____ | _____ |

COUNTY EXTENSION AGENTS

Agricultural Agents

Home Demonstration Agents

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

THE DAIRY SITUATION TODAY

One of the first jobs a committee may do is to study the present dairy situation in the county. This will help to discover problems which need attention. Check the county situation opposite each dairy job or practice.

Dairy jobs or practices	Needed for most profitable operation	County Situation		
		Adequate	Fair	Urgent need
Summer pastures	1 acre sudan per cow			
Winter pastures	1 acre small grain per cow			
Permanent pastures	Improved			
Silage	3 - 5 tons per cow			
Hay	1 - 2 tons per cow			
Concentrates	Fed according to production			
Protein balance	Protein of concentrates and roughages in balance			
Minerals	Mineral mixture fed free-choice			
Herd replacements	Home-raised and well-developed			
Herd sires	Well-bred dairy bulls being used			
Brood cows	Top producers selected for brood cows			
Drinking water	Plenty of clean, cool water at all times			
Parasites	Controlled			
Dry cows	6-8 weeks dry period with adequate feed and care			
Shelter and shade	Protection from hot and cold weather			
Sanitation	Quality milk produced			
Cow care	Quiet, comfortable and regularity			
Dehorning	All dairy animals dehorned			
Mastitis control	Low incidence			
Brucellosis control	Enrolled in either Plan A or Plan B			
Herd records:				
DHIA	A strong organization			
Official testing	Utilized by purebred breeders			
Private	Breeding, feed and production records kept			
Production per cow	Minimum of 5,000 lb. milk for high testing breeds and 7,500 for low testing breeds			
Marketing:				
County and milkshed associations	Supported by majority of dairymen in county			
ADA	Strongly supported			
Others (list)				

JOBS TO WORK ON THIS YEAR

After the county dairy situation has been studied, the committee members may list below the jobs they feel should have priority this year. Some programs may require several years to reach satisfactory solutions. List the jobs or programs which should be started or continued this year. A few programs, well planned and developed, would be desirable over a poor attempt on many programs.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR EACH PROGRAM

Program No. 1

_____ Chairman

Program No. 2

_____ Chairman

Program No. 3

_____ Chairman

Program No. 4

_____ Chairman

Program No. 5

_____ Chairman

Committee members may serve on more than one program committee. Assistance of other leaders, such as bankers working on a herd-record program, may be available for the asking.

SUGGESTED PROGRAM OUTLINES

ORGANIZING A COUNTY SILAGE PROGRAM

(A similar program may be adapted to hay and pasture.)

Every dairyman needs silage but not every dairyman recognizes this need. An organized county program can be very effective in increasing the production and use of this important dairy feed.

- I. Hold county-wide silage meeting (winter)
 - A. Discuss
 1. Value of silage as a feed
 2. Producing silage
 3. Harvesting silage
 4. Types of silos
 5. Feeding silage
 - B. Get indication of interest
 1. Number of acres by varieties
 2. Number of cattle
 - C. Aid in contact work, locating equipment, and lining up schedule for contractors
 - D. Help select silo locations
- II. Check on supply of planting seed (winter)
 - A. Contact local seed stores
 - B. Recommend varieties to be stocked
- III. Check on silage equipment (spring)
 - A. Owned by individuals
 - B. Available for custom work
 - C. Group or cooperative action possible
- IV. Publicize production practices (spring)
 - A. Planting dates
 - B. Varieties to plant
 - C. Methods of planting
 - D. Fertilization
- V. Make plans for silo construction (late spring)
 - A. Survey number and type of silos to be built
 - B. Obtain cost figures and other information from contractors and dealers
 - VI. Plan for harvesting time (early summer)
 - A. Aid in scheduling custom work
 - B. Emphasize harvesting at proper stage
 - VII. Get ready to fill silos (summer)
 - A. Emphasize adequate packing
 - B. Recommend labor-saving equipment and practices
 - C. Assist in locating labor and equipment
 - VIII. Put out feeding information (any-time)
 - A. When to feed silage
 - B. How much silage to feed
 - C. Feeding equipment
 - IX. Hold field tours (to fit the purpose)
 - A. Give cost figures
 - B. Have demonstrator give silage testimony
 - C. Give opportunity for questions to be answered
 - X. Push silage year-round
 - A. Use press and radio for feature stories
 - B. Analyze progress made from year to year

ORGANIZING A DHIA PROGRAM

(A similar program may be adapted to artificial breeding.)

A Dairy Herd Improvement Association must be set up on a sound, business-like basis if it is to succeed. Long life in a testing program is important because herd records become more and more valuable year after year. The slogan of every DHIA should be "never cease operation."

- I. Make survey to determine interest
 - A. Enlist the help of those already interested
 - B. Keep herds as concentrated as possible; however, an association may cover one or more counties
- II. If survey indicates sufficient interest, hold meeting to explain the DHIA program
 - A. Use personal contacts, press and radio to develop further interest
 - B. Enlist the help of milk plant fieldmen and other agricultural workers
 - C. Discuss
 1. The value of herd records (L-243)
 2. How a DHIA operates
 3. Type of herd information provided
 4. Cost to the member
 5. Requirements for a successful program
 - D. Get indication of interest
 1. Number of herds
 2. Number of cows in each herd
- III. Plan necessary followup to enroll other dairymen
 - A. Encourage interested dairymen to contact their neighbors
 - B. Get assistance of other interested individuals
 - C. Set date for reporting progress to the committee
 - D. Continue to publicize program
- IV. Hold organization meeting when enough dairymen have agreed to enroll their herds
 - A. At least 20 herds with a total of 600 to 800 cows necessary for a strong association
 - B. Discuss the uniform rules of the DHIA program (Extension dairy husbandmen may be called upon to assist)
 - C. Sign membership agreements
 - D. Elect a board of directors (at least 5)
 - E. Give membership an opportunity to express their opinions on items below
- V. Board of directors meet to complete organization
 - A. Elect a president, vice president, and secretary-treasurer
 - B. Adopt constitution and by-laws
 - C. Purchase or make arrangement for necessary equipment
 - D. Arrange for herd books, forms and reports
 - E. Determine testing rates
 - F. Determine fees to go into treasury for operating expenses
 - G. Determine procedure of collecting testing and association fees
 - H. Determine where supervisor will obtain board and lodging
 - I. Employ an approved supervisor
 - J. Set the date for testing to begin
 - K. Notify members of all rules and policies that affect them

- VI. Encourage an active board of directors
 - A. Hold monthly meetings
 - B. Keep selling DHIA at all times
 - C. Encourage members to use records
 - D. Keep association strong financially

ORGANIZING A PROGRAM OF PRIVATE HERD RECORDS

Many dairymen may not have the opportunity to participate in a DHIA program or enroll their herds on official test. These dairymen should be encouraged by the committee to keep and use private herd records.

- I. Hold a meeting to discuss the value of herd records (L-243)
 - A. In the feeding program
 - B. In a breeding program
 - C. In a culling program
 - D. Analyzing herd operations
 - E. Get list of dairymen interested in serving as demonstrators in keeping private herd records
- II. Supply interested dairymen with record forms
 - A. D-317, Breeding and Calving Record
 - B. D-386, Feed Chart
 - C. D-401, Monthly Milk Weights For Better Herd Management
 - D. D-403, Dairy Herd Book For Private Records
- III. Plan a followup program during the year to encourage accurate and complete records
 - A. Demonstrators meet with committee to study records and determine best way to use them
 - B. Plan a recognition program at the end of one year to honor demonstrators who have done a good job
- IV. Locate and publicize success stories on the value of herd records
- V. Continue to sell herd records to other dairymen
- VI. Work toward enough interest and participation to support a DHIA program

ORGANIZING A PROGRAM ON SELECTING HERD SIRES

Selecting a herd sire is one of the most important jobs a dairyman must do. Yet, it is one of his most difficult jobs. Over a period of years his herd may go forward or backwards, depending upon his choice of herd sires.

- I. The committee should study and get acquainted with the *Dairy Herd Sire Analysis* program of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service
 - A. How it may assist dairymen in selecting herd sires
 - B. Forms and procedures involved
- II. Set up the program in the county
 - A. Build the program on the importance of well-bred herd sires and a herd replacement program
 - B. Outline the assistance available
 - C. Provide *Dairy Herd Sire Analysis* forms (D-404) through the county extension office
 - 1. Explain information needed and how to get it
 - 2. Instruct dairyman to return completed form to county extension office

3. Follow instructions on the form to complete the analysis
- D. Keep a record of bulls analyzed and purchased for future

evaluation of program

- III. In addition to selecting individual herd sires, the committee may encourage the use of artificial breeding

ORGANIZING A BRUCELLOSIS CONTROL PROGRAM

Dairymen must be following Plan A or Plan B in their herds by September 1, 1958 as certified by the Livestock Sanitary Commission. This means a big job ahead, and soon, for many dairymen. This is one of the most urgent jobs of the committee.

- I. Hold county-wide brucellosis meeting
 - A. Discuss
 1. Brucellosis problem and program
 2. Plan A and Plan B
 3. Important job ahead
 4. Things to do now
 - B. Make survey of group
 1. To determine degree of participation at present
 2. To determine those interested in an organized program
- II. Contact local veterinarians to enlist assistance and cooperation
 - A. Official calfhooD vaccination
 - B. Sign up herds on one of the plans (probably Plan B)
 - C. Encourage follow-through with proper authorities to eliminate problems and misunderstandings
- III. Develop the sanitation phase of the program
 - A. Protect drinking water from contamination with body discharges of animals
 - B. Protect feed from the body discharges of animals
 - C. Isolate all animals showing indication of illness or impending abortion in a "hospital" pen and keep separate from the herd until they are normal
 - D. Put heavy springing cows in a maternity pen ten days before calving and keep there until all discharge ceases following calving. All membranes and still-born calves should be buried immediately
- IV. Continue to emphasize importance of program as deadline approaches

REFERENCE FOR COMMITTEE USE

Breeding

- | | |
|-------|---|
| C-325 | Reproductive Failure in Dairy Cows |
| D-317 | Breeding and Calving Record |
| D-393 | Herd Sire Selection Score Card |
| D-404 | Dairy Herd Sire Analysis |
| L-58 | Artificial Insemination of Dairy Cattle |

Feeding

- | | |
|-------|------------------------------------|
| B-69 | Feeding and Care of the Dairy Herd |
| B-168 | Clovers for Texas Pastures |

B-186 Silage for Feed Efficiency
B-197 Building Pastures
B-795 Dairy Digest
B-798 Silo Construction Costs and Silage Production Practices
C-92 Alfalfa in Texas
C-135 Minerals and Vitamins for Dairy Cattle
C-216 Mowing Pastures
C-286 A Forage Program for the Dairy Herd
C-328 Concrete Lined Trench Silos
D-386 Feed Chart
L-152 Pasture Fertilization
L-208 Feed Mixtures for the Dairy Herd

Management

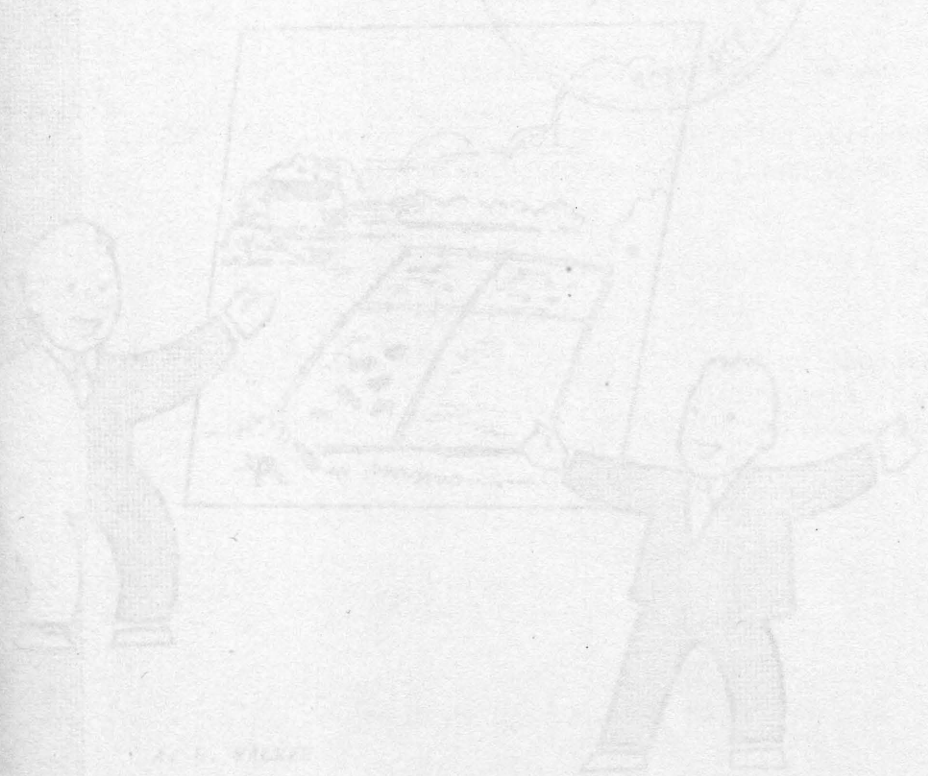
B-178 Raising Dairy Calves
B-217 Want To Be a Dairyman?
B-241 Dairy Handbook
B-252 A Milking Procedure for the Dairy Herd
C-284 Developing Dairy Heifers
C-292 Mastitis and Its Control
C-302 Producing Quality Milk
D-401 Monthly Milk Weights for Better Herd Management
D-403 Dairy Herd Book for Private Records
L-243 Herd Records---the Key to Sound Management
L-247 Cow Care
L-256 Guide for Controlling External Parasites of Livestock and Poultry
FB-1974 The Dairy Herd Improvement Association Program

Plans

No. 345 Cattle Hay Rack
No. 356 Mineral Trough
No. 366 Calf Barn
No. 373 Hay Storage and Loafing Shed
No. 394 3-stall Tandem Milking Parlor
No. 395 4-stall Walk-thru Milking Parlor

Notes

Deferred and Rotation Grazing



Notes