

DAIRY HERD MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS -

PRIVATE

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Private programs assist the dairyman in making on-the-farm decisions on feeding, breeding, management and cost analyses. These records are not used in the genetic appraisal of cows and sires or in the promotion and sale of animals. All private programs are returned on standard forms.

- Owner Sampler - Milk weights and milk-fat samples are obtained on all cows in the herd. Additional information also is recorded.
- Owner Sampler/Milk Only - Milk weights are obtained on all cows in the herd. No milkfat sample is obtained. Additional information also is recorded.
- AM-PM - Milk weights and milkfat samples are obtained on alternating morning and afternoon milkings each month. Additional information also is recorded.
- AM-PM/Milk Only - Milk weights are obtained on alternating morning and afternoon milkings each month. Additional information also is recorded.

HOW TO ENROLL IN A PROGRAM

- Association - To enroll in a private program, a local Dairy Herd Improvement Association (DHIA) does not need to be operating in your geographical area. Contact your county Extension agent for assistance.
- Supervisor - An individual is employed by a local association to record management information and to ship milkfat samples. This individual has received

field and classroom training to prepare him for a DHI supervisor's position.

- Dairyman - It takes a willing dairyman to enroll in a DHI program. Once enrolled, the dairyman should use his records for better management and decisionmaking.
- Measuring Devices - Any type of measuring device may be used.

WHAT MUST BE REPORTED MONTHLY?

- Dairyman - The dairyman maintains a form for recording dates for calving, drying off, disposals, aborting, breedings and heats. In addition to the dates, he also keeps a record of the sires to whom the cows were bred, identification of calves and reasons for disposing of cows. All this information should now be kept by the dairyman for his normal operation.
- Supervisor - The supervisor visits the dairy once a month. He can provide metering devices for the dairyman to use if the dairyman can use his own. The supervisor will provide the dairyman with shipping containers if milkfat samples are obtained. The supervisor is responsible for the accuracy and completeness of all information sent to the Southern Regional Dairy Records Processing Center. If milkfat samples are obtained, the supervisor ships them.

WHAT CAN A DAIRYMAN EXPECT?

- Feeding - A major expense for the dairyman is feeding the herd. Records show how much concentrate

is being fed each cow and if she is getting enough concentrate for her production level. In addition, the herd summary feeding information shows the dairyman what is being fed to the total herd. This indicates what might be needed next year.

- Culling - An immediate use of the records is for culling. Cows are ranked by their relative position in the herd based on 4 percent fat corrected milk, total income from milk, income over feed cost, persistency of lactation, production to test day and mature equivalent production. Also when a cow completes a lactation, the dairyman receives a complete history page for that cow. Semiannual listings for estimated relative producing ability on cows in the herd indicate what a cow can be expected to produce during her next lactation above herdmates. All this information can aid the dairyman in making sound culling decisions.
- Management - Although the man in management is the most important part, he is limited by available information. Records give him individual cow or herd summary information for making management decisions.
- Production - Production records are provided on each cow and on the herd. These records are used in many ways by the dairyman.
- Reproduction - Reproduction is a major problem associated with a dairy operation. Records show which cows have been open more than 100 days without a breeding date. Herd summary information indicates whether the problem is with heat detection or whether the cows have physiological problems.
- Mastitis - An optional program available through local associations is the Wisconsin Mastitis test, a screening test for mastitis. This subclinical test provides a routine, early defense-warning mechanism to use in herd health programs. The supervisor performs this test on an unpreserved milk sample.
- Special Options - Several features of the computerized DHI program are available on an optional basis in addition to the standard program. These

options provide extra service and information for herd management for dairymen requesting such services. Available listings include:

- Special management list, including:
 - Cows open
 - Cows bred in last 60 days
 - Cows due to calve
 - Cows to turn dry

- Test day milk production
- Test day fat production
- Cows to consider for culling
- Extra copies
- Application for requesting page
- 365-day records
- No feeding information
- Milk only record
- AM-PM record

Your county Extension agent has more information concerning this program, or you may contact the Extension Dairy Specialist, The Texas A&M University System, 110 Herman Heep Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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