

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY  
MANHATTAN, KANSAS 66506  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
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# KANSAS DAIRY EXTENSION NEWS

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JULY-SEPTEMBER 1992



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August - 14 & 15 - All Breeds  
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## MID-STATES: 35 YEARS OLD

Remember when... Kansas converted entirely to "IBM Processing?" It was in December, 1963. During that year, countless hours were spent in Kansas entering hand-calculated DHI records into data processing format. Mid-States Dairy Record Processing Center (DRPC) was organized in 1957 at Iowa State University and continues to provide computing and programming service to North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Kansas. Currently, there are some 6,000 dairies with more than 380,000 cows being serviced by 350 DHI supervisors and processed through the DRPC. Mid-States is controlled by the DRPC Council which is composed of producers from each of the states involved with representation based upon the number of cows tested in each state.

While many changes have occurred in the last 35 years, the last five years have been the most remarkable with the advent of laser printing and the implementation of the EBS & MORE programs. EBS & MORE is the first program in the United States where producer's DHI data is stored in their personal computer. The recently adapted "Bulletin Board" allows the downloading of milk components from the lab directly to the producer's computer -- another first for Kansas DHIA members.

Mid-States DRPC also houses the National Verified Identification Program (VIP) and is the clearing house for NAAB (AI) Calving Ease data.

## SAMPLE-LACTATION REPORT: DHIA 200C

Another option for Sample Day and Lactation Report is now available, "thanks" to laser printing. This version is the DHIA 200C. The new report is 8½ x 14 and doubled lined for each cow. The additional room allows for sire and service sire along with milk weights and raw SCC scores for the previous six test days. Current lactation summit milk yield is shown along with energy corrected milk and times bred. Ask your supervisor to show you a sample copy of DHIA 200C.

## BULLETIN BOARD – A FIRST!

**The Cover** - In April, Kansas DHIA members became the first producers in the US to be able to download components (SCC-Fat-Protein) directly from the laboratory. Using an electronic mail system, members or their supervisors may call the Manhattan lab by a computer modem the next day after testing and load the components directly into the EBS & MORE program. Then, producers can generate a number of reports using the weighted SCC.

## KEEPIN' COWS COOL

**SHADE-AIR FLOW...** These are the basic ingredients for keeping dairy cows comfortable. Continually wetting cows is detrimental as water traps heat. When using sprinklers, apply sufficient water to wet the hide and then allow them to evaporate dry which causes the cooling effect. Avoid excess water in the holding pen. Milking wet udders greatly increases the chances of mastitis.

Free stall barns should be open on the side walls and ridge row to allow good air movement. Free stall surfaces should be in good condition to encourage their use. In dry weather, well-graded dirt lots with sun shades or screens, oriented north to south, provide adequate cow comfort. Frequent disking of the lots breaks up manure and allows greater exposure to the sterilizing effect of sunshine.

## DRY COWS NEED "MOTHERING"

Dry cows need "mothering" to insure that they will produce up to their potential in the next lactation. Instead of forgetting about the dry cows, the following are some feeding and management practices that will pay dividends:

1. Plan for a 45-60 day dry period.
2. Discontinue milking abruptly.
3. Dry-treat all quarters at dry off.
4. Separate dry cows from milking cows.
5. Feed a grass type forage with enough grain for cows to reach a body condition score of about 4 by calving time. Thin dry cows need to be separated from those with good body condition to be fed extra grain.
6. Avoid feeding alfalfa or corn silage. Alfalfa can cause milk fever, while corn silage can lead to displaced abomasum and other digestive upsets.
7. Two to three weeks before calving, feed a ration similar to the lactating ration to allow the rumen to adjust to a different feeding program.
8. Observe for signs of mastitis and treat accordingly.
9. Calve in a clean area.
10. Milk fresh cows completely to avoid some mastitis problems, but watch for signs of milk fever.

## DHI RECORDS PAY DIVIDENDS

The average cow on DHI test in Kansas produced about 4,700 pounds more milk than the average of all Kansas cows in 1991. More feed costs are associated with the extra production, but the higher production resulted in \$267.00 extra income-over-feed cost from tested cows. Production testing doesn't cost -- it pays!



LET'S GO TO THE...



## "KANSAS HOLSTEIN SUMMER FIELD DAY"

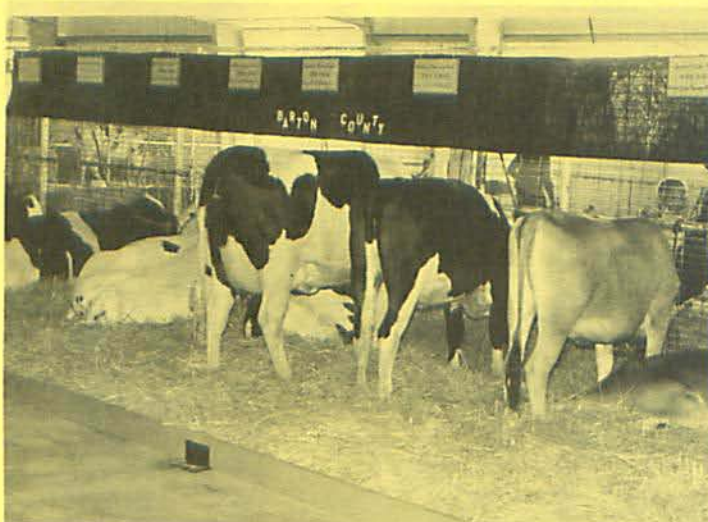


**THURSDAY      JULY 30   FARMLAND FEED & DAIRY RESEARCH FARM**

BONNER SPRINGS, KANSAS

- 9:30 A.M.      REGISTRATION -- REFRESHMENTS  
"VISIT COMMERCIAL EXHIBITS"
- 10:30 A.M.      PROGRAM - "UPGRADING A GRADE BREEDING PROGRAM"  
PANEL DISCUSSION by KANSAS HOLSTEIN BREEDERS
- 12:00 NOON      COMPLIMENTARY LUNCH  
"VISIT COMMERCIAL EXHIBITS"
- 1:00 P.M.      OVERVIEW OF FARMLAND'S DAIRY OPERATIONS  
"TOURS OF FARMLAND RESEARCH FARM"
- 3:00 P.M.      FREE DRAWING - PRIZES

**DIRECTIONS: 4 MILES NORTH OF I-70 OR 6 MILES SOUTH OF LANSING ON  
HIGHWAY 73.**



# THE 27TH ANNUAL KANSAS ALL BREEDS JUNIOR DAIRY SHOW

August 14 - 15, Salina, KS  
Kenwood Park

The Kansas All Breeds Junior Dairy Show will be held in Kenwood Park, Salina, Kansas, on August 14th and 15th, 1992. The show is co-sponsored by the Agricultural Division of the Salina Area Chamber of Commerce and the Kansas Interbreed Dairy Council.

SHOW STARTS FRIDAY - Aug. 14th  
ENTRIES MUST BE IN PLACE BY 4 P.M.

BANQUET - 6 P.M. KENWOOD HALL

TICKETS AVAILABLE ON THE GROUNDS  
BEFORE THE BANQUET

◆Fitting and Showing Following Banquet◆

The show will be limited to 4-H and FFA members who are enrolled in a bonafide dairy project and National Junior Program members who have reached their 7th birthday before January 1, 1992. However, older members of the respective breed National Junior Programs will qualify for this show except fitting and showing.

**REGISTERED  
AND HIGH GRADE CATTLE  
TO BE SHOWN TOGETHER WITH GRADES  
RECEIVING 25% LESS PREMIUM**

## BREEDS ELIGIBLE

AYRSHIRE ◆ BROWN SWISS ◆ GUERNSEY  
HOLSTEIN ◆ JERSEY ◆ MILKING SHORTHORN

## ENTRY CLASSES

Class 1	Jr. Heifer Calf	Class 8A	Jr. 2 yr. old
Class 2	Intermediate Calf	Class 8B	Sr. 2 yr. old
Class 3	Sr. Heifer Calf	Class 9	3 yr. old
Class 4	Summer Yearling	Class 10	4 yr. old
Class 5	Jr. Yearling	Class 11	Aged Cow
Class 6	Winter Yearling	Class 12	Dry Cow
Class 7	Sr. Yearling		

## CASH PREMIUMS

FOR BLUE, RED AND WHITE RIBBONS

Class 13	Beginners Fitting & Showing (7 - 11 yrs. first time)
Class 14	Novice Fitting & Showing (7 - 11 yrs. old)
Class 15	Jr. Fitting & Showing (12 - 14 yrs. old)
Class 16	Sr. Fitting & Showing (15 yrs. & older)
Class 17	County Herd (5 animals any age and breed - at least 2 exhibitors.)

## OWNERSHIP & HEALTH REGULATIONS

Same requirements as for Kansas State Fair on cows and calves..and be registered in their own name by July 1, 1992. In case of grades, Extension agent or FFA teacher must certify ownership is correct.



Many special award will be given by Breed Associations, Breeders and others.

Entries will be accepted until August 10, 1992.  
Mail entries to the Chamber of Commerce,  
PO Box 586, Salina, Kansas 67402-0586

## THE "ABNORMAL" COW

Research has shown that as many as 30% of all fresh cows will have some abnormality around calving time. Any problem at calving is likely to have a depressing effect on the reproductive system. Generally the effect is a delay in first ovulation that occurs in normal cows by the end of the third week. Early resumption of heat cycles is of benefit in uterine involution and subsequent pregnancy.

Several studies (but not all) have suggested that cows with abnormal calvings will benefit from receiving gonadotropic releasing hormone (GnRH) during the 2nd or 3rd week of lactation. The responses measured were more heat periods and subsequently greater fertility. Additional reports suggest that the administration of one of the prostaglandins (PGF) ten days after GnRH enhances the benefits of the latter hormone. Responses to hormonal therapy vary from herd to herd just as there is variation in factors that cause problems from one herd to the next.

## BEST MASTITIS TREATMENT?

Oxytocin given for clinical mastitis at each milking may be the best "cure." For sure...intramammary antibiotics have a poor track record in curing mastitis, except in a dry cow treatment program. A part of any curing process is to remove as many organisms and their toxins as possible from the infected area. Injected oxytocin- the milk let-down hormone- has been shown to be effective in obtaining residual milk which is not harvested during routine milking. This extra milk will flush out more mastitic bacteria and toxins and aid in the healing process.

## FREQUENT MILKING, TOO

When acute clinical mastitis strikes and the cow is desperately ill, frequent milking to remove toxins is the best therapy. Here again, after each milking, use oxytocin and re-milk to get as much of the toxic material out of the udder as possible. Such cows also need fluids to counteract dehydration.

Oxytocin is also indicated at dry-off time. After the last milking, inject oxytocin and re-milk. The effectiveness of a dry cow treatment program is dependent upon using an antibiotic that appears to be effective based upon sensitivity testing. A couple of weeks before dry-off, obtain sterile samples for culturing and determine the antibiotic preparation of choice.

Note: Oxytocin is an a R<sub>x</sub> preparation and must be properly labelled and stored at the dairy.

## SCC AND SPONTANEOUS RECOVERY

Ever wonder what somatic cell counts (SCC) were all about? Regulations and incentive payments have made SCC a common topic of conversation.

Somatic cells (mostly white blood cells) are the cow's first line of defense. Stress, such as invading mastitis organisms, causes a rapid increase in SCC in an attempt to destroy the intruding organisms. If the white cells are effective, SCC drops back to a low level resulting in "spontaneous recovery." If the SCC remains high then the white cells are not successful in eliminating the invader and continue to wage war against the organism. If the mastitic bacteria gets the upper hand, clinical mastitic results as evidenced by abnormal appearing milk.

Spontaneous recovery occurs much more frequently in low SCC herds (under 300,000) than herds averaging over 600,000. In a K-State study of high and low SCC herds, cows in low herds with SCC over 400,000 had a 43% chance of being under 200,000 the following month. In the high herds, such cows only had a 12% chance of spontaneous recovery the next month. This indicates that milking management in low SCC herds is such that somatic cells have a better chance of doing their job.

Unfortunately, antibiotic treatment of high SCC cows is usually unsuccessful. If culling is not an option for high SCC cows, dry cow treatment after antibiotic sensitivity testing will have limited success. The best way to lower SCC is to initiate a good milking management program.

## CALVING INTERVAL - TOO LONG?

"Breed cows on the first heat after 60 days fresh." This 50-year-old axiom guarantees calving intervals greater than 400 days simply because days-to-first service averages 80+.

On average, calving interval is a function of days-to-first bred. Cows cannot become pregnant until first bred. As days-to-first bred is lowered by one day, calving interval is reduced by one-half day. To shorten calving interval:

1. Breed cows on first heat after fresh 42 days.
2. Cows not serviced by 60 days in milk... start on Monday Morning Program (MMP).
3. Practice routine pregnancy exams.
4. Intensify heat checking.

### **PEDIGREE AND... DHIA 203**

Lactation Graphs (bar graphs to depict lactation curves) have been available on the DHIA 203, Pedigree and Performance Evaluation, for several months. Now, this option will also include the Calving Record which includes all the information available on each calf including sire and calving ease score. With the addition of Calving Record, only the last three lactation curves may be shown.

The DHIA 203 is published as each cow dries off or leaves the herd for whatever reason. The Lactation Graph and calving record option costs two cents per cow month. To sign up for the option, indicate YES to Lactation Graphs on your monthly billing report, (DHIA 231).

An added benefit of DHIA 203 is whenever a cow (or the herd) is sold for dairy purposes. The DHIA 203, individually or for the herd, may be updated to the actual sale date and assures that all the cow's records are transferred to the new owner.

### **REDUCE PAPER FLOW**

Herds being processed on the EBS & MORE program can reduce paper flow by requesting that the Barn Sheet (DHIA-201), Herd Feed Input (DHIA-228), or the New or Corrected Identifications (DHIA-233) not be sent back. All of this information is available and can be printed directly from the program.

Reducing this printing will not decrease the processing bill directly, but will greatly assist future developments of the EBS & MORE program. To request eliminating any of these reports, simply send a message to the DRPC.



### **Cooperative Extension Service**

Extension Animal Sciences and Industry  
Call Hall  
Manhattan, Kansas 66506-1600  
913-532-5654  
FAX: 913-532-5681

Dear Producer:

The Summer Field Day, July 30 at Bonner Springs promises to be an enjoyable, educational event. Also, all 4-H, FFA and Jr. Association members are encouraged to participate in the 1992 Kansas All Breeds Junior Dairy Show at Salina, August 14-15.

Sincerely yours,

  
Edward P. Call  
Extension Specialist, Dairy Science



James R. Dunham  
Extension Specialist, Dairy Science

### **CORRECTING COMPUTER NUMBERS**

Occasionally a heifer freshens or leaves the herd and her computer number is not prelisted on the barn sheet. When this occurs, the correct computer number can be obtained by referring to the Replacement Inventory, DHIA-226.

This computer number must be recorded on the front of the barn sheet with the appropriate status codes and dates.

In herds being tested with EBS & MORE, the replacement can be located easily with the use of the find key (F4). After pressing F4, enter the barn name. The cursor will go directly to the replacement's line where the status code and date can be entered. This saves time and ensures the information is reported correctly.

### **WHAT'S HAPPENING?**

July 30 -- Summer Field Day, Farmland Research Farm, Bonner Springs

August 14-15 -- Kansas All Breeds Junior Dairy Show, Salina

September 11-20 -- Kansas State Fair, Hutchinson

October 30 -- K-State Dairy Day, Manhattan