

WHAT THE ELECTRONIC MACHINE DHIA
RECORDS PROVIDE

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Starting in the fall of this year the Southern Regional Dairy Records Processing Center will change to a new DHIA computing program. This program and related changes were developed over a period of three years by Extension Agronomists working in the 11 cooperating states and Puerto Rico. The program has been designed to provide (1) additional management information, (2) more accurate information and (3) more complete identification on each cow. In addition, the electronic computer will do much of the recording of data previously required of the DHIA supervisor.

The Dairy Herd Improvement Record, DHIA-200, with only one line per cow, provides information on 22 cows per page. Sold and dead cows are no longer listed in this report. The last calving date will be printed each month for milking cows. An optional mastitis test is a part of the report. Cows will be rated according to production and placed in one of five groups. A persistency index is given for cows milking more than 50 days. The due date is computed from the most recent breeding date. Number of days open is given for cows in milk.

Herd averages are given on a separate form, the Herd Summary and Management Report, DHIA-202. Basic data on the monthly averages, herd totals and rolling yearly herd averages are still given. In addition, average calving interval, days dry, days open and number of breedings per conception are given. A breakdown of reasons cows leave the herd is provided. The percent of cows with sire identification, HRS (herd reproductive status index), number of cows open more than 100 days and herd persistency of lactation is reported.

A machine produced cow page, the Individual Cow Record, DHIA-203, is produced each time a cow completes a record. An interim page is printed for cows milking over 350 days. Much of the information given on the old cow page is retained. In addition, the rating in the herd, actual 305-days production, 305-day 2X-ME production and lifetime totals for available lactation records are given. Each time a new page is provided, the old report can be discarded.

To help in identification, an Individual Heifer Calf Page, DHIA-204, is produced each time the identification is reported for a new heifer calf. Calf, sire and dam information is provided. The heifer's sketch may be made on the page. When a heifer calves, her basic identification is given on this page.

The DHIA supervisor has less recording to do as the computer does most of the work. For each test only one form must be completed by the supervisor, the Barn Sheet, DHIA-201. Stress is placed on increased accuracy. The processing center has increased the amount of checking of data as well as the number of reports and the information provided.

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