

HOW THE NEW MACHINE DHIA RECORDS HELP ME IN HERD MANAGEMENT

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For many years I have been coming to Gainesville to the Dairy Short Courses and Production Conferences. I have seen new goals for higher production raised and surpassed. I have actively and successfully operated a dairy farm for 29 years, but by DHIA standards I am still on the ground floor.

This past January, we joined the South Florida DHIA so I suppose I am one of the newest members on this program. I am very optimistic about the values of the program and feel sure it will help set and obtain new goals for our operation.

Even though we have weighed milk and maintained card records on our herd of cows since 1963, we have not increased our production per cow at the rate I feel we should. I am looking to the Dairy Herd Improvement Association to help in this endeavor.

I realize the records alone are not the answer but we plan through their use to achieve new levels of production per cow.

Since my experience with the new record is so limited, I will talk more about expectations and goals than I will on the actual use of the records.

In discussing this I like to think in terms of DHIA:

1. Financial
 - A. Dollars help increase appreciation.
 - B. Discover higher income annually
 - C. Develop healthy income ability
2. Herd Improvements
 - A. Discuss herd improvements authentically
 - B. Document heifers' identity accurately
 - C. Discard heavy impractical animals
 - D. Discover heifers' inherited ability
 - E. Detect historically ideal animals
3. Management
 - A. Depend hardily on analysis
 - B. Draw hasty inclusive assistance
 - C. Disclose helpful improving accomplishments
 - D. Devise harmonious immediate answers
 - E. I am not sure what the future holds but my DHIA philosophy is: Don't hesitate, initiate advancement.