## THE NEW MACHINE DHIA RECORDS WHAT THEY ARE (Illustrated) by C. W. Reaves, Extension Dairyman

The electronic computer processed DHIA records of today provide the dairy-man with the business information to apply the skilled management methods required of all industries. The individual cow and herd data provide information for culling, feeding, improving reproduction performance, the proving of sires, the selection of herd practices and making managerial decisions.

Let us look at some of the herd management information shown on the Herd Summary each month:

- 1. The percent days in milk
- 2. The average days open (not bred)
- 3. Number breedings per conception
- . The projected calving interval
- 5. The percent cows left herd for each reason
- The average percent persistency of production, based on the normal decline.
- 7. The percent of total feed nutrients from each feed source supplied the herd.
- 8. The average production for month and the last 12 months
- 9. The Value of Product
- 10. The income above feed cost

These and many other items are shown for the herd as a whole.

Next, the Monthly Report for individual cows shows <u>on one line</u> the cow's current milk and test, her lactation to-date, income, last calving date, last breeding date, date due to calve and the data for her from which the herd figures are secured.

A new printed report is a Calf Page for each heifer calf reported with a number, giving the birth-date, sire and dam.

The Monthly Report provides a projected production figure for each cow for early culling, Her rating among the cows in the herd of her breed is shown. An Action Code column signals the cows to breed, to dry off, due to calve, start heavy grain, etc.

The DHIA record is not an end in itself, but a means to an end. The statements of successful dairymen will show how the records help.