

ELECTRONIC IDENTIFICATION AND COMPUTERIZED PRODUCTION RECORDING

Bassett's Dairy Farm
Monticello, Florida

Dale H. Eade

Large herd size makes managing the individual cow or smaller group of cows much more difficult. In multiple parlor, large highly efficient parlors, and/or multiple bulk tank situations it is very difficult as well as time consuming to accurately measure the performance of individual production groups. Yet, this information is vital to management of the herd.

In 1987 Bassett's Dairy installed Boumatic electronic identification and milk meters in order to accurately measure and record daily production data on each cow. This data is used for managing the individual cow, groups of cows, and the entire herd. With as many as fifteen different herds being fed six different rations we have been able to closely monitor each group as we change and modify the rations. This allows us to determine if a modification in the ration was cost effective.

The Boumatic Agri-Comp 2040 dairy farm management system integrates computerized milk production recording, computer feeding, and a reproductive calendar into a single system. Currently we are utilizing the Agri-comp 2040's computerized milk production and interfacing with the Pc-Dart system from the DRPC @ Raleigh. This allows us comprehensive management data on each cow with up to date production data.

As with any management tool electronic I.D and computerized milk production recording requires continual maintenance. Maintenance of data within the system is paramount to its usefulness. Correct calving, dry, and sick dates as well as updated and correct input of who is in contact with the system must have a working knowledge of the system. Maintenance of the equipment must also be a high priority in order to insure credible results. With the increase in maintenance to milking equipment.

Electronic I.D. and computerized milk production allows us to closely monitor and integrate daily production data into the management information we use as daily decision aids.