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Make Dairying Pay

The Record Way



Federal Cooperative Extension Service
Oregon State College • Corvallis

Extension Circular 621

November 1956

National Cooperative Dairy Herd Improvement Program

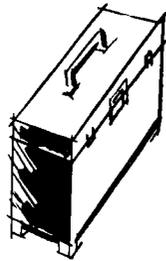
Three record-keeping plans . . . Take your pick

1. Standard DHIA



- Dairy-herd-improvement association employs a supervisor who visits farm one day each month to weigh and sample milk from each cow. He may also weigh the grain fed each cow and the roughage fed the herd. In some associations this service is provided every other month.

- Supervisor calculates standard DHIA production and feed records for cows and herd, or the records may be calculated in a central office. The records are entered in the dairyman's herd-record book. The records include production to date, monthly and year-to-date herd totals, total and average feed cost, and income over feed cost for the herd.



- Identification records are maintained and recorded. When available, registration numbers are used. Nonregistered animals are ear-tagged to establish their identity. Thus, a lifetime record for each cow is developed.

- Production records made in the herd are used for proving sires in the National Sire-Proving Program.

Approximate cost: Local DHIA board of directors fixes costs. Standard DHIA charges cover supervisor's time for weighing, sampling, and testing the milk and calculating the records. Average cost in most sections of the United States is 40 cents per cow per month.

2. Owner-Sampler



- The dairy-herd-improvement-association supervisor leaves sample bottles and record sheet at the farm one day each month. On the evening of that day and the next morning, the owner weighs the milk yield of each cow and records the weight on his record sheet. He takes a sample of each cow's milk for butterfat testing. He may also record the amount of grain fed each cow and the amount of roughage fed to the herd.

- Next day the samples are tested and the records are calculated by the supervisor or in a central office.

- Dairyman receives monthly and yearly reports, usually by mail. The reports give complete records of cow and herd. These records provide the dairyman adequate information for feeding and culling.

- Owner-sampler records are not used in the National Sire-Proving Program, because the supervisor does not sample and weigh the milk.

Approximate cost: Local DHIA board of directors fixes costs. Owner-sampler charges cover cost of testing the milk and calculating the records. Costs vary, but they are usually half the cost of standard DHIA.

3. Oregon Weigh-a-Day



- Dairyman enrolls in weigh-a-day-a-month plan and obtains necessary forms and instructions from his County Extension Agent.

- Dairyman weighs each cow's milk morning and evening on the 15th of the month. He records the weights on the record forms supplied him.

- Milk records for each cow for the month, production-to-date, monthly herd records, and year-to-date herd totals are calculated by using the computer table in the record kit.

- These records provide the dairyman with information for feeding, culling, and selecting herd replacements.

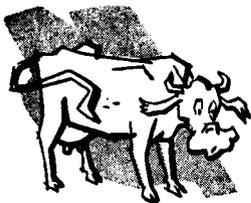


Oregon weigh-a-day milk record kits may be obtained from County Extension Agents. These kits provide milk weight and breeding records for 32 cows for 12 months.

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For most current information:
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog>

Why keep records?

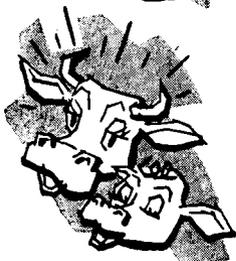
They help you to



1. Cull out low producers and increase net income.

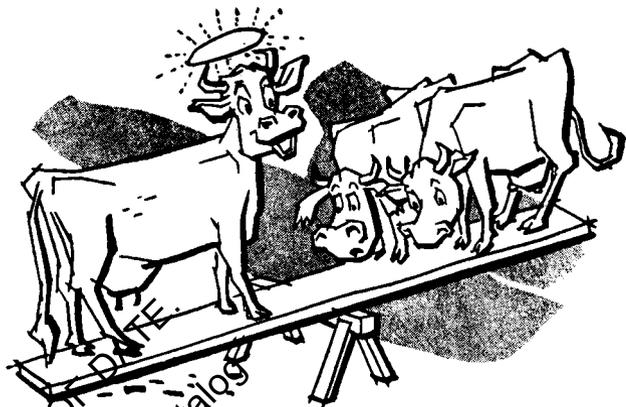


2. Feed grain according to production and save money



3. Select cows whose calves will be good herd replacements

You can't afford to *Dairy* without production records



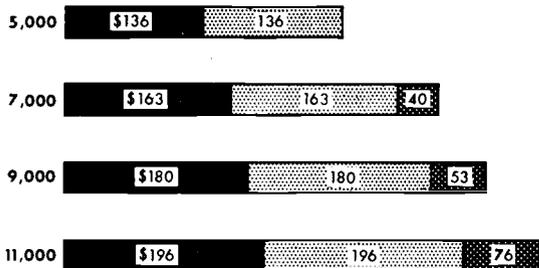
Why milk, feed, and care for two poor cows, when one good cow will yield more total income over feed cost?

The milk your poor cows produce (at no profit to you) adds to the surplus and depresses the price of milk.

HIGHER PROFITS

With Higher Production per Cow

POUNDS OF MILK



■ Feed cost ▨ Other costs (labor, depreciation, overhead, etc.) ■ Net profit

SOURCE: DAIRY HERD IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION RECORDS

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- Want more information?
- Want to enroll in any of these record-keeping plans?
- See your County Extension Agent or write to the Extension Dairy Specialist at Oregon State College, Corvallis.