

syndrome in cattle resulting from thrombosis of the posterior vena cava. *Vet. Rec.* 94, 459 (1974). - 13. Selman, I.E., A. Wiseman, R.G. Breeze and H.M. Pirie. Differential diagnosis of respiratory disease in adult cattle. *Bovine Practitioner*, in press (1976). - 14. Stober, M. von. Pyogene Thrombosen der Vena cava caudalis beim

Rind. *Proc. IVth. Int. Conf. Buiatrics (Zurich)*, 1 (1966). - 15. Wagenaar, G. Thrombosis of the vena cava posterior in the cow. *Tijdschr. v. Diergeneesk.* 88, 39 (1963). - 16. Wyssmann, E. Uber Leberabszesse und Thrombosen der hintern Hohlvene beim Rind. *Schweiz. Arch. Tierheilk.* 54, 276 (1912).

Practice Tip

DHIA Records
Dr. Riley Shuler
Orangeburg, S. Carolina

My practice tip is how a dairy practitioner uses DHIA records. I am in an exclusive dairy practice composed of reproduction and herd health programs. I encourage my dairymen to the point of insistence that they be on official test. We receive permission from our dairymen to have DHIA records mailed to us from the computer center and the following is an explanation of how we use them.

When these records come in, I usually glance over them and get an idea of whether this client is improving or has a few gray areas, etc. I look at the number of cows on test, the percentage in milk, how much milk is being obtained, and the number of pounds of milk per milking cow. I like to keep up with this on a month-by-month basis. Rolling herd averages for milk and butterfat and the percent of butterfat are important.

The next part of this sheet is economic information. It is important for me as a practitioner to keep up with my client's feed cost. How much is he getting for his milk? You can tell whether he is making money or not.

The other part of this sheet concerns breeding information. The left-hand side deals with cows that have not been bred. The important area here is the cows that are open over 100 days. The right-hand portion of this deals with cows that have been bred but have not been bred long enough to determine pregnancy. The important area here is the number of cows bred three or more times, the percent problem cows and the number of cows that are 100 days or more open and you are still breeding. It also gives the total of the number of cows in the breeding herd.

This section of the DHIA record deals with the pregnant animals in the herd. We have the number of pregnant animals, the average days open, or projected calving interval, and conception information. Also the breeding conception for the past 30 days. This part of our record gives us a comparison of our first-calf heifers as compared to our older cows. Heifers with a 14-2 ME and older cows with a 16-39 ME. We can tell here whether he has some inferior heifers milking this year.

We also have information on the mastitis test. Cows to be milking for the next six months, cows to be dry and cows to calve. Average days dry, consistency of lactation, then we have a summary for the past 12 months, the herd average for the last 12 months and we can see whether he is improving or regressing.

From the mastitis test we get the CMT scores; the scores were 2's and 3's on the right-hand column. What do we do with these? We look at them to see

this client's problem areas, then we give them to our secretary. We have had some forms printed up. We put these in a folder and keep each summary record for the previous 12 months in this folder.

We like to keep a record and have information on this client's feeding program—whether he is feeding corn silage, all hay, what percent grain ration he is feeding, etc., whether they are feeding a blended ration. We like information on his vaccination status, and time of vaccination, as to month of year or stage of lactation, etc., and we have these for six years. We have the secretary plot the number of milkings plus the percent in milk month by month and here we have a five-year basis. We can look back on most of these herds for the past three or four years and see what is going on. We plot the rolling herd average for milk and for butterfat.

The second sheet is calving interval and HRS index number. Days open and days dry, and the other part is breeding for conception and cull rate. On the bottom we have a blank for comments. Any important or severe management changes made, we'd like to record here. Maybe he hired a new herdsman or fired his old one, or he put in a new feeding system, or built a new dairy, and it might severely affect management.

Before we go out to visit a herd, say on Wednesday, maybe Tuesday or Monday night we'll pull out this folder, sit down, look over it, and we can see whether he is making progress or going backward. We can spot problem areas before they get serious.

The problem I've always had before is I would go on the farm and things would get out of hand. I wouldn't have time to go over our records and so forth, and this way I know what he is doing and if he has a problem, I can bring it up and say, "Look, Joe, you've got too much mastitis, looks like," or "You're not catching your cows in heat," or "You are having conception problems. What's the problem?" It has been a big help to me in my relationship with my clients. If any of you are interested in these forms, please contact me and I'll help you out.

If you wish a copy of your client's records, first ask your client for his permission. The North Carolina state dairy extension does our computer records, charges the client \$2.50 a month for this extra copy and they will mail directly to us. We ask the client for his permission, then we notify the state dairy extension leader, giving him a list of clients we wish to receive extra copies on, and in a couple of weeks we get copies and they continue on.