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GOT DAIRY DATA

– DHI Uniform Operating Procedures

DHI records are the backbone of U.S. dairy management and genetics. In addition DHI records provide benchmarks of milk production progress and efficiency. DHI records play an even greater integral role in the U.S. dairy production system than in the past. Dairy producers, nutritionists, veterinarians, milk and cheese plants and bankers look to DHI records as the standard for which data are collected, processed and returned to dairy producers and their support teams for use in managing dairy herds.

The Uniform Operating Procedures (UoPs) as part of the DHI and quality certification currently governing data collection have been in place since 2002. These UoPs are in the cycle of being updated to reflect the new technology and research that has been implemented in dairy production. The dairy industry demands a new system that offers dairy producers more flexible user-friendly service and yet provides the standardization and consistency needed for industry-wide programs such as management benchmarks and genetic evaluations. The updates will provide flexibility to all users of DHI records, thus enhancing the ability to respond to changing market opportunities.

To keep technology and the DHI system data capture and processing up-to-date, the three primary segments of the UoPs will be reviewed and updated:

1. Data collection
2. Code of Ethics
3. Release and Use of Records

UNIFORM OPERATING PROCEDURES and DATA COLLECTION

Uniform Operating Procedures specifically in data collection are methods essential to collecting quality data for herd management, genetic evaluations and research purposes. These procedures include items such as how to weigh and sample milk, how to calculate lactation records, and the identification of animals. These are cornerstones of data capture to enhance the usability and effectiveness of dairy management and genetics.

The DHIA System has a defined series of Testing Plans, with some examples as Standard, AM-PM, unsupervised or DHIR. These plans represent how data are collected on the farm on test day with regards to supervised or unsupervised plans and how many tests per 12 month period. For reference see <http://www.dhia.org/testplan.pdf>

UNIFORM OPERATING PROCEDURES and CODE of ETHICS

The Uniform Operating Procedures relating to the Code of Ethics is a guide to appropriate conduct for members participating with DHI. All practices and efforts should comply with the Code of Ethics as a basis to follow accepted or standard practices. Non-compliance of the code would be noted and could be viewed by entities seeking to determine the particular use and fitness of a dairy farm's data.

<http://www.dhia.org/uop.pdf>

**NATIONAL DAIRY HERD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM
UNIFORM OPERATING PROCEDURES**
Effective June 2002

UNIFORM DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURES

PURPOSE:

The purpose of these procedures is to provide the framework for a uniform, accurate record system that will increase dairy farmers' net profit.

The uniform records and data thus provided are used for (1) making farm management decisions; (2) educational programs and research, including the genetic evaluation of cows and sires; and (3) the promotion and sale of animals.

AUTHORITY:

These uniform data collection procedures have been developed and adopted under the direction of National DHIA.

A Memorandum of Understanding exists between the Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding and the Agricultural Research Service of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to ensure the flow of DHIA records for industry purposes including genetic evaluation programs.

RESPONSIBILITY:

DHIA organizations at all levels and DHIA technicians and herd owners as well as persons in their employ are individually and collectively responsible for adherence to these Uniform Data Collection Procedures.

These basic and minimum standards are to be uniformly followed throughout DHIA. They serve to ensure that DHIA records will provide the accuracy, uniformity, and integrity essential to all segments of the dairy industry.

All DHIA Service Affiliates, field services, laboratories, dairy records processing centers (DRPCs) and meter centers must maintain certification by Quality Certification Services to verify compliance with these standards.

To participate in this dairy record keeping program a dairy farmer must agree in writing (membership agreement or service contract) to conform to these procedures and the associated Code of Ethics.

Special conditions affecting eligibility and participation are the responsibility of the DHIA Service Affiliate.

DEFINITIONS:

DAIRY COW is defined as any cow from which milk production is intended for use or sale for human consumption, or which is kept for raising replacement dairy heifers and is an integral part of the dairy herd.
DAIRY HERD is defined according to the following principles:
A. All cows of one breed, housed or managed under a single management system, regardless of ownership.
B. Farms with two or more distinct breeds may calculate and report either a composite herd average or a separate herd average for each breed.

In general, herd codes should be assigned in accord with the principles stated above. However, it is recognized that legitimate exceptions may exist that warrant assignment of separate herd codes. For example:

1. A herdowner may operate separate units under separate management systems, with no movement of cows between management units.
2. Two groups of cows may be housed together but with different ownership, management goals and with no movement of cows from one ownership group to the other; one owner may wish to test and the other owner may not.
3. Farms with two or more distinct breeds may enroll one breed on and not the other(s).

DHIA Service Affiliates may assign herd codes that differ from the principles in A and B if they are in accordance with the code of ethics. The decision of the DHIA Service Affiliate regarding the assignment of herd codes shall be final.

TEST is defined to be the entire process of information collection at the farm, and may include some or all of the following: weighing of milk during the milking process, electronic collection of other data, collection and analysis of milk samples, and collection of other data. Since the actual component testing does not generally occur at the farm, this procedure should be labeled as the laboratory test or component test.

TEST DAY is defined as the 24-hour period during which milk is weighed and sampled. Herds doing daily milk recording are permitted to use longer intervals (most commonly 5, 7, or 10 days) to estimate 24-hour test-day production if appropriately labeled. (also see section 18.1.)

DHIA TECHNICIAN - This and equivalent terms such as supervisor, tester, independent service provider, etc. define the person approved by the DHIA Service Affiliate to certify production information collected at the farm. DHIA technicians may employ others to assist them in data collection, but the DHIA technician must provide supervision and assume responsibility for the work of their assistants.

DHIA SERVICE AFFILIATE is defined as the organization conducting DHIA service for dairy farmers, often coordinating the activities of DHIA Service Providers.

DHIA SERVICE PROVIDERS are Quality Certified organizations that provide one or more services to DHIA Service Affiliates, including:

- A. **FIELD SERVICE** is defined as an organization that collects data and/or samples on dairy farms and arranges delivery of DHIA reports to the dairy.
- B. **LABORATORY** is defined as a facility that measures the composition of DHIA milk samples.
- C. **DAIRY RECORDS PROCESSING CENTER (DRPC)** is defined as an organization that provides electronic processing of DHIA records using approved procedures and rules for record calculations.
- D. **METER CENTER** is defined as a facility that repairs and checks calibration of devices that weigh and/or sample milk.

**UNIFORM OPERATING PROCEDURES and
RELEASE and USE of RECORDS**

DHI program members who want their records to be available for genetic evaluations or to other cooperators will select from one of the following options:

1. Open disclosure
2. Limited disclosure among allied industry partners participating in appropriate agreements

The DHI records from members choosing not to disclose their herd or cow data will not be provided to the Genetic Evaluation Program or allied industry cooperators.

Privacy Codes are available from DHI Service Providers and Dairy Records Processing Centers (DRPCs) to restrict the publication of records on a local or regional level. The privacy code does not affect the flow of records to USDA-AIPL for genetic evaluations or to other industry cooperators. Producers with religious (or other) objections to publication of records, but want their data included in the genetic evaluation program, should use the privacy code to have this data flow as to their wishes.

BREED ASSOCIATION ACCESS and USE of DHI DATA

Breed associations and other industry allies have relied on "type of test" to categorize the use of production records for the breed association and the industry. The DHI environment and breed associations made revisions to breed association production records programs in the late 1990s and early 2000 time period to incorporate the UoP guidelines, Type of Test Plans and Data Collection Rating (DCR). The DCR calculates a percentage value based on the frequency of tests, supervision and number of milk component samples collected during the test period. These DCRs generally

have some type of cut off levels for breed recognition programs for production.

The Holstein Association USA, American Jersey Cattle Association and Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders have specific programs that tie the classification frequency to the DHI tests that enhance the old DHIR programs and to expand participation by breeders in combination type and production programs.

CHANGE TO REFLECT THE TIMES

These updates will be through a process of task Forces that will include dairy producers, DHIA's, DRPCs, Breed Associations, AI organizations and allied industry cooperators. The broad input will build and work to include the best thinking and delivery of update UoPs.

The DHI system and Quality Certification program remains a critical component of the DHI System and is in place to provide credibility and guidelines to provide standards for dairy producers across the U.S. In a natural evolution these efforts and UoPs are being revised to support the new technologies and the changing biology of the dairy cow. Look for the updates to these UoPs throughout 2013.