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**Number of cows on DHI programs continues to grow**

San Antonio, Texas (March 19, 2008) – For the fourth consecutive year, the number of U.S. dairy cows on Dairy Herd Improvement (DHI) programs increased – from 4.071 million cows in 2003 to 4.415 million cows in 2007. National DHIA President Mark Adam shared this tremendous news with delegates, managers and guests during the association’s annual meeting, held March 12-13, in San Antonio. The cow numbers represent 8.4% growth, which occurred during a time span of volatile dairy economics and declining U.S. dairy cow population.

Adam reported that a recent dairy business analysis summary showed that the average expense for DHI records is now less than 0.5% of all expenses on the average dairy. However, DHI records account for business decisions that affect 42% of the total dairy expenses and 84% of the average dairy farm’s income.

“The DHI system provides programs and opportunities for all sizes of dairy operations,” stated Jay Mattison, National DHIA CEO and administrator. Whether a dairy has five cows or 5,000 cows, DHI records offer accurate, detailed, concise and proper information to economically manage that dairy business.

Delegates to the NDHIA annual meeting elected the following individuals from their respective regions as NDHIA board members. Eastern Region: Dan Sheldon, Salem, N.Y., was re-elected to a three-year term. Central Region: Bruce Dokkebakken, Minnesota DHIA manager, was elected to a three-year term and replaces Mark Adam, NorthStar Cooperative manager. Western Region: Susan Lee, Idaho DHIA manager, was elected to complete the vacant manager position on the board; and Jon Tollenaar, an Elk Grove, Calif. dairy producer and San Joaquin DHIA president, was elected to a three-year term – replacing Greg Marrs of Colorado DHIA.

Other board members include Steve Hershey, Lancaster DHIA, Manheim, Pa.; Lee Maassen, Dairy Lab Services, Maurice, Iowa; Richard Kimball, Vermont DHIA, Spencer, Mass.; Kent Buttars, Rocky Mountain DHIA, Lewiston, Utah; Bob McKaig, Indiana State Dairy Association, Logansport, Ind.; James Zimmerman, Dairy One, Ithaca, N.Y.; and John Clay, Dairy Records Management Systems, Raleigh, N.C., as the Dairy Records Processing Center ex-officio board member. At the NDHIA board reorganization meeting, the following officers were elected for 2008-09: President Dan Sheldon, Vice President Lee Maassen, Secretary Steve Hershey and Treasurer James Zimmerman.

The 2009 NDHIA Annual Meeting will be held the first week of March in Boise, Idaho.

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*A photo of retiring NDHIA board members Mark Adam and Greg Marrs is available upon request.*