

Arizona DHIA
Phone: 480-894-0156

Dairy Lab Services
Phone: 563-557-7421

Dairy One Cooperative Inc.
Phone: 607-257-1272

DHI Cooperative Inc.
Phone: 800-DHI-OHIO

Idaho DHIA
Phone: 208-733-6372, ext. 104

Indiana State Dairy Assn.
Phone: 765-494-8025

Lancaster DHIA
Phone: 717-665-5960

Minnesota DHIA
Phone: 763-682-1091

NorthStar Cooperative
DHI Services
Phone: 800-471-3716

Puerto Rico DHIA
Phone: 787-544-6690

Rocky Mountain DHIA
Phone: 435-374-0218

San Joaquin DHIA
Phone: 209-824-7790

Tennessee DHIA
Phone: 865-974-7289

Texas DHIA
Phone: 806-651-8750

United Federation of DHIAs
Phone: 540-552-2541

Vermont DHIA
Phone: 802-295-3379

Washington State DHIA
Phone: 360-755-0375

Got Dairy Data?

Changing industry-USDA partnership fo

September 2012 Deadline

In late June 2012, USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) announced a deadline for implementation of a Nonfunded Cooperative Agreement (NFCA) between ARS and the Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding (CDCB) for the establishment of a research plan and transition of the current ARS service work to the industry. This comes after a 32 month review of a NFCA and a subsequent business plan.

The CDCB's goal has been to involve the industry cooperators (breed associations, AI Organizations and Dairy Records Providers) that helped build the system in developing a roadmap for genetic evaluations and management tools and then seek industry and public input by the end of July 2012 for the proposed NFCA and business plan. These documents were released in May and June 2012 for review and to address appropriate areas and concerns brought to the CDCB's attention. It is anticipated that implementation of the NFCA with ARS as well as the CDCB operational business plan will occur on or before the September 30, 2012 deadline.

Thousands of hours have been spent by all sectors of the industry through the CDCB and individual organizations' board leaders and staff developing a plan that probably is not perfect, but is logical and realistic to serve the U.S. dairy herd for genetic evaluations and management tools. The effort was framed in the context of "serving the broad or public good while acknowledging the competitive and commercial opportunities for the mid and long term sustainability of the U.S. dairy herd for genetic and management areas."

Data and data access are the key

The USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the dairy industry as represented by the Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding (CDCB) have been working on this plan where the industry will take on the responsibility for managing the database of DHI information and the genotypes that have been collected over the last 40 years. This will allow ARS and in particular the Animal Improvement Program Laboratory (AIPL) to focus on their stated mission of research and not service work.

The calculation of genetic and genomic evaluations, management benchmarks and the distribution of evaluations and information will be handled by the CDCB. Confidentiality of dairy producer voluntarily submitted data will be easier to maintain within a structure of the CDCB. A fee structure can be implemented to support the service work of genetic evaluations, data handling and editing and distribution. This maintains the release and use of data based on the cooperator agreements that dairy producers have with the system.

Access to the CDCB member's cooperator database for AIPL will be available and is necessary to sustain the accuracy of genetic and genomic evaluations and research for new traits in the future. From a delivery standpoint, more research effort can be provided and perhaps even greater research can be provided by ARS for the broader good of the U.S. dairy industry and producers.

With genomic evaluations available shortly after a DNA sample is collected and analyzed, there needs to be access to a reference database of yield, ancestry, type, calving and fertility data necessary to



or dairy cattle improvement

provide current data so the genomic evaluations reflect the current dairy cattle population. Operating with industry control of the calculation and distribution of the evaluations, an equitable system can be developed where those that get evaluations contribute to the collection of the data.

The objective is to recognize and incentivize the contribution of data for the system and have those contributions recognized for helping with the long term sustainability of the world class system the U.S. dairy has built for genetic evaluations and management benchmarks. The more data and cooperation, the better for the U.S. dairy industry.

For the broader good and controlling the destiny

The U.S. dairy industry has benefitted from a very successful government-industry partnership for dairy cattle improvement. Implementing a sustainable system for the future will allow the industry to serve dairy producers in the ever changing political and economic environments. Around the world, genetic evaluation programs are supported by the government-industry cooperation.

The evolution contemplated envisions a continued strong ARS role in research and development, tightly integrated with the industry run service functions. Current expectations are for industry supported personnel to work closely with ARS's Animal Improvement Programs Laboratory staff. The proposed changes will allow a mechanism for the industry to manage the services determined as needed and under a cost system supported by the users.

There is general understanding that continued access to data must be assured and the industry must increase support for the dairy cattle management and genetic management programs. This is particularly critical with federal government budgets under pressure. Funding or lack thereof for ARS and the Animal Improvement

Programs Laboratory (AIPL) are not at the center of these proposed changes. The need of AIPL to bolster its research mission by reducing their service work efforts is what needs to be addressed. The industry needs to partner and address this for strengthening the ARS – dairy industry collaboration.

Industry and ARS representatives have been working over the last 12 months to have a Cooperative Agreement to serve both dairy producers and ARS's interests. A plan based on cooperation and service of a broad audience that will provide a sustainable system which provides access to evaluations while insuring the flow of quality data is the ultimate goal of the ARS and CDCB. The sustainability of the system must be adequate to support the operations of data flow, management benchmarks, genetic and genomic evaluations as well as the research to add new traits and otherwise implement new technology as it becomes available.

Now is the time for the future

The next few weeks will be a critical time for the work and cooperation of ARS, the Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding and dairy industry cooperators to provide and implement an industry supported plan to serve dairy farmers and their operations.

Staying as a world leader takes a vision, resources and cooperation. We have the data. Leveraging those data supplied by dairy producers in a cooperative effort controlled by dairy producers will take the resolve of everyone to continue to be world leaders.

Got dairy data? You bet.