

HEART OF AMERICA



NEWSLETTER

January 2008

Technician Training Set for 2008

In 2008, Heart of America will be conducting one-day technician training in each state. Please mark your calendar now to prevent any conflicts. Some locations have not yet been confirmed, but the dates will not change.

North and South Dakota

July 15 Aberdeen

Nebraska

July 16 Columbus

Kansas

July 17 Manhattan

Oklahoma/Arkansas

July 18 Muskogee

As in the past, all technicians are required to attend one of the meetings. This year, the technician association requests that we conduct a complete overview on PCDART to include entering data, building reports, managing your herds downloads, etc. You may contact one of the district offices if you have any suggestions for training topics or materials.

Meter Calibration

(Bryan Stout)

It is time to start thinking about meter calibration again. I will start calibrating meters in Oklahoma and Arkansas in March. The rest of the states will fall in the following months.

All meters used on test day performing an official test are required to be calibrated each year. If you use your meters to perform an owner sampler test, they are not required to be calibrated each year, but we do recommend it. Any time you have a problem with a meter or need to order parts, please give me a call.

Those of you with electronic meters should be receiving a letter to remind you to get your meters serviced and calibrated. Electronic meters need to be calibrated by the manufacturer or your local service personnel. If you have any questions about meter calibration, please give me a call at 800-888-0841

Johne's Update

(Dave Sukup, General Manager)

We have experienced an increase in herds wanting to have a Johne's test performed on their herds. We can send the same DHIA milk samples on to Northstar Cooperative in Michigan and have them do the Elisa Test.

The price of the test is \$6.50 per sample plus shipping to Northstar Cooperative. You do not have to add the price of the Johne's test in PCDART. We will invoice the dairy after the test is completed.

If you are interested, please notify the Lab prior to sending in your DHIA samples so that we can ensure that the samples do not get dumped after we run BFP and SCC. You need to enclose a list of samples numbers you wish to have tested. After our lab tests are completed, we will recap and send the earmarked samples off for the Johne's Test.

You can call 800-698-2634 to let us know to hold your samples or if you have any questions

PCDART

Heart of America ranks as one of the highest users of PCDART on the farm with DRMS. There are a total of 2953 programs being used across the US. About 29% of the herds that process with DRMS use PCDART. HOA has 291 programs out of 650 total herds with a 47% usage which ranks third among the affiliates that process with DRMS. But, the other day I still spoke with a producer that didn't know what PCDART was or that it was available for any producer to use on the farm. All records in HOA are processed through PCDART, either by the producer entering data on their program on the farm, the technician entering data on their computer or the data is mailed into the lab and entered there.

The best method or use of PCDART is for the producer to enter his or her own data right on the farm. That way, they can update their program daily and generate new reports at any time.

The cost of PCDART is \$7 plus 10¢ per cow with a maximum cost of \$40 per month. So, a 100 cow herd would cost \$17 per month. A 200 cow herd would cost \$27 per month. Any herd over 330 cows would only pay \$40 per month.

Ask your technician to show you some of the features in PCDART or give one of the district offices a call. We would be glad to visit with you about the program or send you more information.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Listed below are some upcoming meetings and dates you may want to put on your calendar. If you have dates or meetings that you would like to advertise in this newsletter, please contact one of your district offices.

Nebraska State Dairyman's Assc.....Feb 19

OSU Dairy Days, Stilwell OKFeb 19

OSU Dairy Days, Chickasha OK.....Feb 20

OSU Dairy Days, Pryor OK.....Feb 21

High Plains Dairy ConferenceMarch 6-7
Albuquerque NM

Central Plains Dairy ExpoMarch 18-20
Sioux Falls, SD

Southern Natl. Holstein & Jersey..... April 7-11
Stillwater OK