

Minnesota DHIA News

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Back to School?

Don't forget about the DHIA Scholarship Program
Information available at www.mndhia.org



ID Solutions

Knowing who is who in your barn is important for management. RFID and management tags for common sense ID solutions. Custom tags are available.

Call Courtney (800) 827-3442 ext. 16

RFID to become the only official tags

Important dates to remember:

December 31st, 2019 – Steel NUES Tags no longer offered from the board of animal health.

December 31st, 2020 Plastic NUES Tags offered from DHIA and other vendors phased out.

NUES tags applied prior to 01/01/2021 are proposed to be recognized as official ID through 12/31/2022



Use MUN Data, Save \$\$

With today's high feed costs, you can't afford to feed a ration with extra protein your cows are not going to utilize. For herds using the Stearns and Zumbrota labs, we are now testing MUN levels on all samples so you can optimize the protein in your ration.

What is it? Milk Urea Nitrogen (MUN) is a measure of the amount of urea in milk and indicates the adequacy or inadequacy of protein feeding. Healthy lactating Holsteins on a well-balanced diet, generally have MUN results in the range of 8-12. Other breeds, particularly Jerseys and Brown Swiss, may have higher values (11.5—13.5).

Where is it? The 245 MUN profile report will show your average MUN levels based on lactation, DIM and group. It is preferable to review MUN levels by groups vs. individual cows, but for individual MUN levels, look on the 370 flex report. This information is all included in the 365 condensed report.

What does it mean? On cows or groups showing low average MUN values (1-7), protein may be underfed. These cows generally experience reduction in milk yield since protein is a limiting nutrient. Cows or groups showing high MUN values (13-16+) are over consuming protein. Any excess or unused protein is converted to urea in the liver and ends up in the milk, blood and urine. Overfeeding protein increases your feed costs and has a negative impact on reproductive efficiency. Also, this will result in excess nitrogen being excreted by the cow.

What can I do? Mike Hutjens, Dairy Specialist from the University of Illinois suggests if MUN is too low to supplement more Rumen degradable protein into the diet. If milk protein is low add starch to the diet, but if milk protein is normal pull a slight amount of protein from the diet. If you are unsure about how to approach improving your MUN levels have a discussion with your veterinarian or nutrition consultant.

Wishing our Customers a Safe and Productive Harvest Season

September is Farm Safety Month

- Always lower a portable grain auger before you move it, even if only a few feet.
- Keep all objects at least 10 feet away from overhead lines. Know where all overhead power lines are located on your property and inform all workers about them.
- Plan your route between fields, to bins and elevators, and on public roads so that you avoid low-hanging power lines. If someone else transports large equipment, always specify a safe route and explain why certain routes must be taken.
- Be sure you and everyone else in your operation know what to do in an emergency.

Source: National Ag Safety Database



Busy Fall?

Want to save some time?

Dairy producers are time poor all year long, but especially in harvest season. DHIA's milk pregnancy test is accurate, convenient, and cost-effective.

1. Just tell your Field Tech the number of days since breeding that you want to start checking - let's say 28 for example (IDEXX says it is good starting at day 28). Any cow with 28 or more days since breeding and no pregnancy status reported will show up on the list (Takes less than 10 seconds).
2. Your Field Tech can show you the screen with the cows to be checked, or print the list for your approval.
3. The DHIA lab analyzes the sample for PG after it has been tested for butterfat, protein, MUN, and SCC, and will send you an email with the results.
4. The pregnancy results can be added to the rest of your data before your records are calculated, so the reports you get back will reflect the current pregnancy status.
5. Those pregnancy results can be downloaded into your on-farm Dairy Comp 305 and will be downloaded into the Field Tech's computer.
6. You can, as many folks do, also confirm pregnancies on cows later in gestation. Just tell your Field Tech how many days to set the flag for recheck. For example, one of our largest dairies says 100 days. All cows that have not been reconfirmed and are past 100 days will be tested for pregnancy. Some folks also test near dry off for a final confirmation.

All of this literally takes less than one minute of your time, except of course for studying those results.

Importance of early detections and rechecks

“Nearly all of these pregnancy losses occur within the first 2 months of gestation. A majority of pregnancy losses occur in the first 3-4 weeks of gestation, but 10-20% of pregnant cows at day 28 of pregnancy will not be pregnant by day 60. These pregnancy losses are especially bothersome because these losses extend the calving interval, compromising the lifetime production potential of these cows.”

Monitoring Pregnancies Early During Gestation Will Help Reduce Costs Associated With Pregnancy Losses—Alan D. Ealy, Professor of Reproductive Biology, Virginia Tech.