

Minnesota DHIA News

A PUBLICATION OF MINNESOTA DHIA

Volume 19 Issue 10

OCTOBER 2019

Statement from the Board of Animal Health:

“The USDA has announced a proposal to phase out visual only official identification (ID) ear tags in an effort to move towards official radio frequency ID (RFID) ear tags (beginning with ‘840’ for USA born livestock). The current proposal is that metal National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) tags, including silver metal and orange Brucellosis vaccination tags, continue to be provided at no cost through the Minnesota Board of Animal Health office until December 31, 2019, or earlier if funds are depleted.”

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 our office (800) 827-3442

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



Answering Your Questions about RFID

What is RFID?

Radio frequency identification transmit a unique sequence of numbers or letters, using radio waves, to identify an animal.

What is the difference between Full Duplex (FDX) and Half Duplex (HDX)?

The difference is how the tag communicates the signal. The Michigan RFID Education Task Force uses a good analogy to explain the difference. Full Duplex is like a telephone conversation where each party can talk and listen at the same time. Half Duplex acts like a walkie-talkie where one party can talk at a time.

What types of systems use RFID?

There are a lot of possibilities with RFID. Many automated technologies are utilizing RFID readers such as weigh scales, milk meter systems, and feeding systems. It is important before ordering tags, that you look at what type (HDX or FDX) works best with your system.

How can RFID be used for herd health management?

RFID can also be used during veterinary visits or herd health day to make the process more efficient. Pocket programs through dairy management software can be used on a hand held device or an Android phone or tablet. With this you can electronically take your vet list to the barn and scan animals (using an RFID reader), which will tell you what action is to be taken or check off a done task from your list.

Source: Michigan RFID Education Task Force Extension Publication



Cows For Sale

15 - 20 Holstein milking cows for sale from a Level 4 Johnes and low SCC herd. For more information, please contact Kevin Ackerman in Sauk Rapids at 320.224.3777.

Wishing our Customers a Safe and Productive Harvest Season

Quick Tips: Preventing Accidents on the Farm

- Develop—then follow—a comprehensive and effective farm safety program.
- Prevent or avoid accidental injuries through positive actions, such as planning, preparing, reducing hazards, using protective equipment, training your help, and working and driving in ways that minimize the chance of mishap.
- Constantly be on the lookout for possible accident situations.
- Keep your mind on the job at hand.
- Take safety breaks throughout the work day to help you stay more alert and safer.



Source: Indiana Rural Safety and Health Council

DOES AGE AT FIRST CALVING MATTER?

Our information comparing RHA lbs. of milk to average age at freshening for first lactation animals say **YES**.

Minnesota DHIA Scorecard for 2019

* Use yearly average values when available, not current test day.					All Cows, RHA Milk, December 2018			
PRODUCTION MEASURES	Your Herd	<16,000	17-18,999	19-20,999	21-22,999	23-24,999	25-26,999	>27,000
RHA Pounds of Milk		13,875	17,761	20,058	22,106	24,010	25,976	28,591
Average Age Freshening, 1st Lact. (months)		29	28	27	26	25	25	24

Fixing What's Broken

302 Herd Summary: % Left Non-Dairy by 60 DIM

Cows culled within the first 60 days in milk, also known as broken cows, cause significant economic losses to herds. In the article, "Minimizing Broken Cow Risks" by Mike Hutjens, he states the cost could be \$2,000 or greater from milk production alone. On the consultant side of the Herd Summary is a section which shows what % of cows culled during the last 1, 3, 6, and 12 months were in their first 60 days in milk. In the example above over the past year, 8% of animals culled for non-dairy reasons were in the first 60 days in milk. That adds up quickly, with 5% of all 1st lactation, 9% 2nd lactation, and 11% 3rd lactation animals culled left the herd within 60 DIM. First lactation animals are the most costly to lose during this period; therefore, a goal may be to monitor 1st lactation animals to limit problems during this time. The month breakdowns allow you to see if there is a trend in your herd during a specific lactation or time period. Animals reaching peak milk production and future lactations make profits, so check out this section of your Herd Summary.

% Left Non-Dairy by 60 DIM				
Lact	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	12 Months
1	0	5	8	5
2	17	12	7	9
3+	21	19	17	11
All	13	11	11	8



Deadline Approaching

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

