

V.P.I. & S.U. LIBRARY

OCT 30 1978

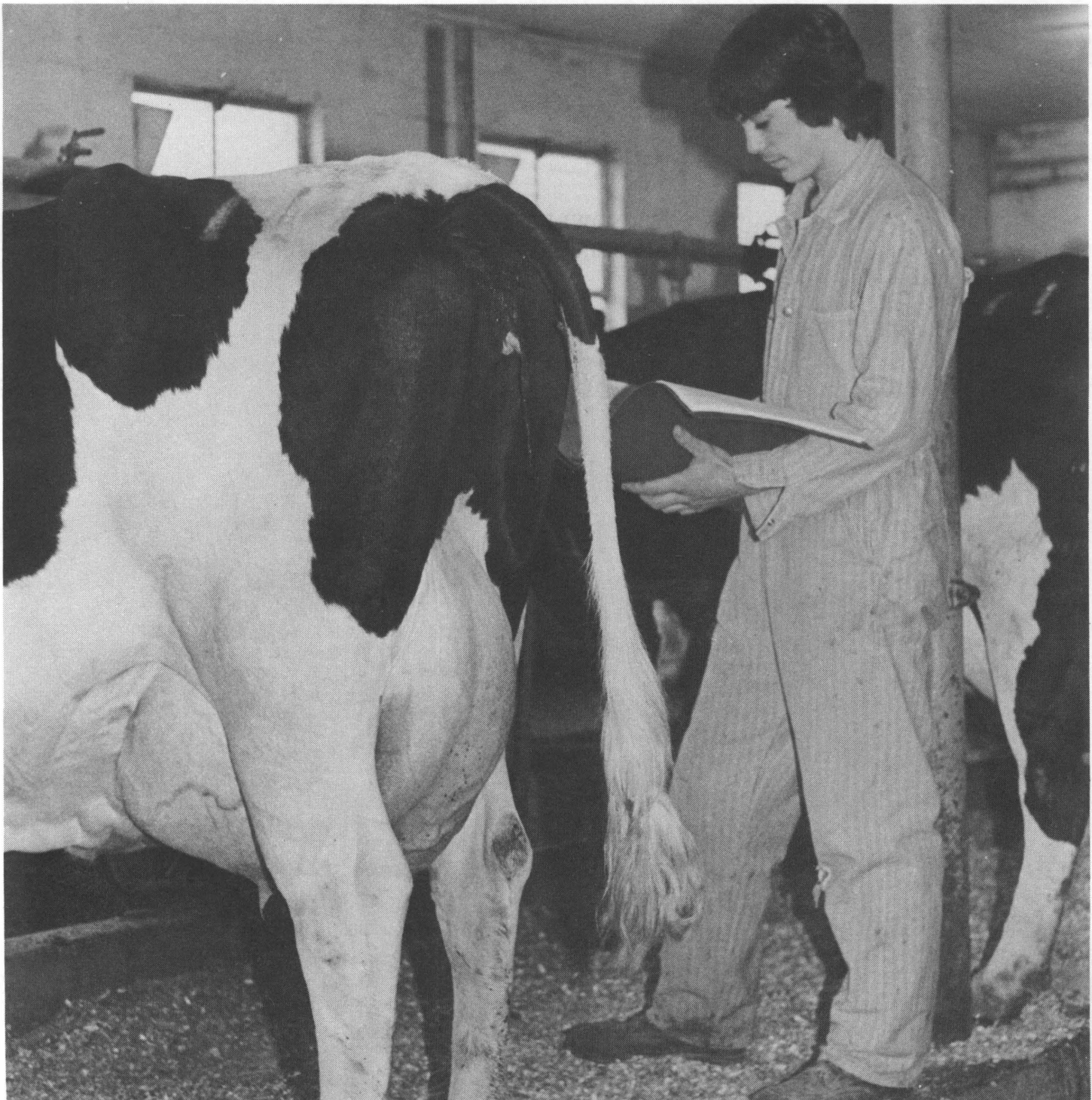
4-H Dairy Herd

Name _____

BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA

Analysis Record

Club _____



4-H Dairy Herd
Analysis Record

Year
Club

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author wishes to acknowledge the assistance of David Hardesty, 4-H member from Berryville, Virginia, who posed for the cover picture.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. W. R. Van Dresser, Dean, Extension Division, Cooperative Extension Service, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061.

The Virginia Cooperative Extension Service by law and purpose is dedicated to serve all people on an equal and nondiscriminatory basis.

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer

4-H DAIRY HERD ANALYSIS RECORD

by
Dennis A. Hartman, Professor
and
Mike McGilliard, Asst. Professor
Dairy Science Department

How To Complete This Record

4-H Herd Owned By _____
Name Address County

Majority of Herd Owned By _____
Parents

For 5th year and older dairy members

How many years have you had a dairy project? _____

This record book was written to help 4-H boys and girls and their parents analyze their herd by using their records. Although this record book is more complex than the other 4-H dairy records, it is more useful and is only intended for the older members who have a greater knowledge of the dairy industry.

This record was designed for a study of 25 cows although pages may be added so more cows can be listed. Include all of your 4-H cows and enough of your father's cows to total 25. Select the cows from your father's herd at random by drawing their names from a hat. If you and your father do not have a total of 25 cows, list the number that you have. In all except the milk production chart, list the 4-H animals with a red pencil to identify them from your father's animals.

Milk Production Chart

List below the herd's daily average milk production per milking cow per month.

Herds On Test. This information can be found in the monthly report of DHIR records. Report the figure that includes the entire milking herd. Do not calculate it for just the 25 cows in this study.

Herds Not On Test. Calculate the total pounds of milk produced by the entire herd (not just the 25 in this study) for a 30-day monthly period. You may wish to use the weights of your milk plant or milk hauler. Divide this weight by 30, then divide again by the average number of cows in milk during that period.

Fluctuations of monthly herd averages are normal. These are caused by variations in the quality of feeds, weather, incidence of mastitis, and many other conditions.

lbs.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
55													
54													
53													
52													
51													
50													
49													
48													
47													
46													Holstein
45													
44													
43													
42													
41													Brown Swiss
40													
39													
38													Ayrshire
37													
36													
35													
34													
33													
32													Guernsey
31													
30													Jersey
29													
28													
27													
26													
25													

State Average For Herds On DHIA

Example: Butterfat Production Per Cow Chart

The chart below ranks the cows according to butterfat production. The age of each cow is shown in the upper right side of her name. Culling should start with the cows producing in the lower one-third of the herd. Cull the cows that are least profitable. A first-calf heifer that produces 30 percent or more below your herd average is probably not worth keeping.

Designate Cows by Name or Number
(Do not include heifers with incomplete records)

Range in Production (pounds of butterfat)											
Under 300	300 to 325	326 to 350	351 to 375	376 to 400	401 to 425	426 to 450	451 to 475	476 to 500	Over 500	Over 600	Over 700
			Sears ³ Judy ³	Fobes ³	Dekol ³ Inka ³	Connie ⁴	Val ⁴ Xmas ⁴	Jigs ³ Polly ⁶	Kay ⁵	Skokie ⁷ Milly ⁶	Triune ⁷ Hilda ⁹
					Per Cent						
			8%	8%	8%	8%	12%	20%	12%	12%	12%

Butterfat Production Per Cow Chart

List below the butterfat production of each of the 25 cows in this study. Herds on test will have each cow's completed 305 record listed in the monthly report. Keep this up to date by entering the cow and age as soon as she completes her record. If the cows in this study have not completed their record at the time when your 4-H leader asks you to turn it in, list their last record. List their 305-day record.

4-H members whose cows are not on test will not be able to complete this chart.

Designate Cows by Name or Number
(Do not include heifers with incomplete records)

Range in Production (pounds of butterfat)											
Under 300	300 to 325	326 to 350	351 to 375	376 to 400	401 to 425	426 to 450	451 to 475	476 to 500	Over 500	Over 600	Over 700
					Per Cent						

To calculate the percent, divide the number of cows in each column by the total number of cows completing a record.

Cause Of Removal of Cows Chart

List the cows and their ages that have been removed from the 25 cow herd in this study within the past year. This should indicate where to place major emphasis in overcoming your losses. For example, if mastitis is causing excessive losses, increased attention should be given to "Managed Milking" and an improved mastitis control program. Keep this up to date by listing each cow as soon as she leaves the herd.

Designate Cows by Name or Number

Number of cows in herd _____

Number of cows removed _____

Percent of cows removed _____

Calculate by dividing the number of cows removed by the number of cows in the herd.

Cause for Removal							
Dairy Purposes	Low Production	Reproduction	Disease or Injury	Mastitis	Feet and Legs	Died	Other

Table for Rating Herd on Cow Turnover per Year

Excellent	14-18 percent
Good	19-21 percent
Fair	22-25 percent
Poor	over 25 percent

Guide For Culling

The following check list will be useful in deciding whether a cow should be culled. If the majority of the questions are "yes," it is likely that she should be eliminated from the herd.

Cow's Name	Yes	No
1. Does she have one of the lowest 4 or 5 ERPA's (estimated relative producing ability) in the herd?		
2. Is she open more than 150 days?		
3. Has she been bred more than 3 times (and still not pregnant)?		
4. If she is dry, will it be more than 90 days until she calves?		
5. Did she milk less than herd average last test day?		
6. Have her CMT (California Mastitis Test) scores been consistently 1 or above?		
7. Is she bred to a sire with PDM (predicted difference milk) of less than +900 pounds?		
8. Does she have a low classification score?		
9. Does her disposition interfere with routine management?		
10. Does she require more veterinary care than average?		
11. Is she a problem to milk?		
12. Does she have enough trouble getting around that it interferes with her eating or management?		
13. Is the price of beef good?		

Cows That Should Be Culled

Date of Culling
