Test Plan Revisions

Idaho DHIA
Field Supervisor Meeting

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Background on National DHIA Test Plans

- ✓ Test Plans last reviewed/changed in 1992 as part of NDHICP
- ✓ Presently there are 68 Test Plans approved plus numerous ITP (Innovative Test Plans) from affiliates
- ✓ 1,100 herds on Test Plan with a Timer (01 or 21)
- ✓ Segregation of Test Plan Usage between DRPC
  - *ATA and DHI-Provo use '60' series*
  - *DRMS and AgSource use '70' series*

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Reason for Revision in Test Plans

- ✓ Bring clarity to system
- ✓ Get herds on the 'right' plan – most timers are obsolete
- ✓ Simplify choices for the dairy producer
- ✓ Simplify training of field technicians
- ✓ Potentially simplify marketing and pricing
- ✓ Easily include 'Experimental' and 'ITP' plans
- ✓ Does not affect DCR calculation

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Plan for Implementation of Revisions

1) *Presented to & approved by AIPL and DRPCs in April 2009*
2) *Present to DHI Managers and CDCB in October 2009*
3) DRPC begin updates Jan. 1, 2010 – finished by Dec. 31, 2010
   - Updates to input and output programs at farm, FT, and central processing
   - Updates to interfaces, editing programs
   - Updates to reports
4) Training support from National DHIA, QCS, & DRPCs in 2010
5) Changes become permanent January 1, 2011

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The New Test Plan Matrix

SAMPLING PROTOCOL	SUPERVISED DHI		SUPERVISED DHIR		UNSUPERVISED		SUPERVISED COMMERCIAL	
	SUPERVISED DHI TEST CONDUCTED BY CERTIFIED FIELD TECHNICIAN/REPRESENTATIVE		SUPERVISED DHI TEST CONDUCTED BY CERTIFIED FIELD TECHNICIAN/REPRESENTATIVE PLUS ADHERENCE TO BREED ASSOCIATION RULES		DAIRY PRODUCER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WEIGHING AND SAMPLING ON TEST DAY		DHI FIELD TECHNICIAN IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WEIGHING AND SAMPLING BUT CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE UNIFORM OPERATING PROCEDURES ARE NOT ADHERED TO	
ALL MILKINGS ARE WEIGHED AND SAMPLED ON TEST DAY	DHI	00	DHIR	20	DHI-OS	40	DHI-COMM	70
LESS THAN ALL MILKINGS WEIGHED AND SAMPLED ON TEST DAY	DHI-AP	31	DHIR-AP	23	DHI-OS-AP	41	DHI-COMM-AP	71
ALL MILKINGS ARE WEIGHED AND LESS THAN ALL MILKINGS SAMPLED ON TEST DAY	DHI-APCS	02	DHIR-APCS	22	DHI-OS-APCS	42	DHI-COMM-APCS	72
ALL MILKINGS ARE WEIGHED BUT NO SAMPLES TAKEN ON TEST DAY	DHI-MO	33	----		DHI-OS-MO	43	DHI-COMM-MO	73
LESS THANK ALL MILKINGS WEIGHED AND NO SAMPLES ARE TAKEN ON TEST DAY	DHI-MO-AP	34	----		DHI-OS-MO-AP	44	DHI-COMM-MO-AP	74
ALL MILKINGS ARE WEIGHED BUT NO SAMPLES TAKEN ON TEST DAY - BREED OR BULK TANK AVERAGE USED	----		----		DHI-OS-AC	45	----	
LESS THAN ALL MILKINGS WEIGHED BUT NO SAMPLES ARE TAKEN ON TEST DAY - BREED OR BULK TANK AVERAGE USED	----		----		DHI-OS-APAC	46	----	

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A Closer Look at Certain Plans…

Test Plan Description	Old Test Plan	New Test Plan	Number of Herds Affected
DHI – AP – T	01	31	655
DHIR – AP – T	21	23	502
DHI – COMM	60	70	23
DHI – COMM – AP	61	71	57
DHI – COMM – APCS	62	72	1
DHI – COMM – MO	63	73	1
DHI – BASIC (ALL AT 1 DRPC)	80	TBD*	56
DHI – OTHER	98	TBD*	6

** TBD – To Be Determined by the field service affiliate as to appropriate new plan for each of these herds*

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Questions?

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DHI Cooperative Inc.
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Indiana State Dairy Assn.
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Lancaster DHIA
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Louisiana DHIA
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Minnesota DHIA
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NorthStar Cooperative DHI Services
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Rocky Mountain DHIA
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Southeast DHIA
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Simplifying DHI test plans

With 68 different DHI test plans available, the milk testing picture can get a little fuzzy. To bring clarity to this picture, National Dairy Herd Information Association (National DHIA)/Quality Certification Services Inc. (QCS) developed a plan to simplify the number of test plans to 20 (see chart on following page).

"What happens on the dairy farm on DHI sample day can be boiled down to the answers to a few basic questions," stated Bruce Dokkebakken, National DHIA audit review committee chair and Minnesota DHIA manager.

Basic DHI milk testing questions

- How many milkings are weighed?
- How many milkings are sampled?
- Who collects the weights?
- Who collects the samples?
- Where does the information go besides back to the farm?

Dokkebakken continued, "We don't need 60-some test plans to define that for our customers and the industry. The revised test plans should make it easier to understand how data were collected and how they will be used. The bottom line is that no matter what test plan a dairy producer chooses, he or she gets certified quality data to help manage the dairy operation for better decision making. And on most test plans, the industry, including dairy herds not on DHI test, benefit from the process."

To reduce the number of test plans, herds previously under the APT plans (a.m./p.m. with timers) will move to DHI-AP or DHIR-AP. Field technicians collect a wealth of information on each farm, including milking times and frequency, which is used to generate on-farm data that go into a model to compute production records. Thus, today's results are quite precise.

Even though the revised system offers fewer test plans, it actually provides more flexibility and more testing options. The previous system put dairy herds in very rigid "boxes." Now, each plan has a couple basic parameters (such as testing frequency, samples taken/not taken, supervised/unsupervised testing, and DHI/DHIR). The new testing plans can be customized to gather and process data as desired by each individual dairy producer. Bottom line: less is actually more. Whether the information is used for genetic evaluations or herd/cow management, the data are credible and accurate – no matter who uses it.

The changes provide several benefits to the DHI system, producers and other industry groups, such as Animal Improvement Programs Laboratory (AIPL), AI organizations and breed associations, for simpler descriptions and use. USDA/AIPL uses the information generated from these plans for genetic and management research, reports and processing sire summary results.

Advantages of fewer DHI test plans

- Simplify test plan choices for dairy producers.
- DHI staff is well versed in all test plan options and will help dairy producers select the correct test plan to effectively manage their dairy business.
- The new system is customizable to fit all dairy producers' needs.
- The data collection ratings (DCR) calculation is not affected. (For more information, refer to the DCR articles posted on the National DHIA web site at: www.dhia.org/dbc_articles.asp.)
- Today's DHI continues to offer relevant test plans that meet dairy producers' needs.

From a dairy producer's perspective, potentially the most appealing part of this revised system is that the producer will not have to do anything to adapt. The DHI field technician and dairy records processing center (DRPC) will put each dairy into the correct plan, based on the previous test plan used. However, this may be a good time for dairy producers to visit with their field technician about the "best" test plan to fit the dairy's needs. Consider the options and services that will yield the most relevant information to enhance management decisions.

What's the timeline for implementing the reduced number of DHI test plans? In October 2009, the dairy industry (breed associations,

Sampling Protocol	Supervised DHI Supervised DHI test conducted by certified field tech/rep		Supervised DHIR Supervised DHI test conducted by certified field tech/rep plus adherence to breed association rules		Unsupervised Dairy producer weighs and samples milk on test day		Supervised Commercial DHI field tech weighs and samples milk, but certain aspects of the uniform operating procedures are not followed	
All milkings weighed & sampled on test day	DHI	00	DHIR	20	DHI-OS	40	DHI-COMM	70
Less than all milkings weighed & sampled on test day	DHI-AP	31	DHIR-AP	23	DHI-OS-AP	41	DHI-COMM-AP	71
All milkings weighed & less than all milkings sampled on test day	DHI-APCS	02	DHIR-APCS	22	DHI-OS-APCS	42	DHI-COMM-APCS	72
All milkings weighed, but no samples taken on test day	DHI-MO	33	-----		DHI-OS-MO	43	DHI-COMM-MO	73
Less than all milkings weighed & no samples taken on test day	DHI-MO-AP	34	-----		DHI-OS-MO-AP	44	DHI-COMM-MO-AP	74
All milkings weighed, but no samples taken on test day – breed or bulk tank average used	-----		-----		DHI-OS-AC	45	-----	
Less than all milkings weighed, but no samples taken on test day – breed or bulk tank average used	-----		-----		DHI-OS-APAC	46	-----	

DRPCs, AI and AIPL) endorsed the new system. Starting this month, DRPCs began making programming updates – input and output programs, interfaces and associated reports and edits. These updates will be completed by Dec. 31, 2010. During the year, National DHIA, QCS and DRPCs will foster a cooperative effort to provide educational support to field service affiliates and industry cooperators regarding the new test plans. These plans will go into effect Jan. 1, 2011.

With the dairy producer's best interests in mind, National DHIA/QCS took a leadership position to move the milk testing system forward. The revised program provides tailor-made test plans that are available to all dairies – no matter their size, shape, management strategy or business structure.