

Production Record Flow (DHIR-DHIA)

— *New Database Advantage*

The new Association database system will bring many benefits, both for the in-house processing of data as well as the many reports and true online registrations available for the breeder. Board members have recently seen a demonstration of some of these options and are excited to begin using the system. See Dave's January "Thoughts" for an estimated time line.

One of the advantages of the new system will include more timely updates of DHIR production records. Updates of DHIA records from AIPL-USDA will also now be able to be updated more frequently. So, let's review the steps involved on the current system and then describe how the advantages of the new system will improve the processing.

DHIA Records

Approximately one month prior to each genetic evaluation run by AIPL-USDA, recent production records from each DRPC as well as type classification data from breed associations are sent to AIPL. AIPL processes the data and prior to release day makes available DHIA records to breed associations. Breed associations update their files with these DHIA records when received. The time frame for receiving these records and updates were just prior to each genetic evaluation run. We will now be able to receive and update records from AIPL on a monthly basis. Note: There will, however, be a 5-month gap from the August to January runs for genetic evaluations due to compliance with the Interbull schedule.

DHIR Records

The Brown Swiss Association receives only completed DHIR records (305d, 365d, complete, or terminated) on a monthly basis from each of four Dairy Record Processing Centers (DRPC's). Most DRPC's cutoff date for herds processed each month is normally the first of the month. DHIR record files are received at the Association shortly thereafter. One center's records are not received until later in the month.

In our current database system, files from all four DRPC's must be combined (merged) and processed together which occurs around the first of the following month. For example, records completed in June will be gathered (received) in July and processed about

August 1. Reports are then generated for publication in the *Bulletin* the month after that (September *Bulletin*). This assumes that the records have passed all edits. This procedure has been followed for many years.

The processing program verifies all the pedigree information received with production records (recorded by the testing supervisor on your barn sheets) against the registration pedigree data on the Association's database. If any of the following do not match: animal ID, birthdate, sire breed, sire registration, dam breed, or dam registration, the record is moved to an edit file. Several other checks are performed on the record itself to check for unusual data as well as verifying that the herd is currently enrolled in BSA or PTPR. If a record is sent to the edit file, it will be manually reviewed, corrected, and re-run the following month.

Approximately ten percent (10%) of all records have some identification error. This past month's run of just over 2,000 records showed the following errors:

Error	Number	%
Animal Reg No.	145	7
Birthdate	62	3
Sire Breed	39	2
Dam Breed	47	2
Sire ID	58	3
Dam ID	48	2

While these add up to 19 percent, many records have two or more errors, i.e., sire breed and ID wrong or missing. Many of the animals' ID errors (Reg No.) are either Eartag numbers or the new Animal ID numbers. Currently, the animal's registration number must be used as the animal ID on your test sheet; otherwise, it is assumed to be a grade animal. Without the actual animal registration number, the Association has no way to find who that animal is on the database.

So, let's follow a cow's record through the process. Suppose Betty completes her 305-day record on May 10, but her herd was tested on May 5. Thus, her 305-day record will not be processed (calculated) by the DRPC until the June 5 test. This record will then be sent with all other records completed in June by the DRPC to the Brown Swiss office about July 1. June records from all DRPC's are then merged together in late July or early August and processed. Betty's record is then available for inclusion on pedigrees. Thus, a record hitting 305 days on May 10 would be available by August 1. If she qualifies, her record would appear in the September *Bulletin*. Should Betty's record have an ID

problem, another month is added to the time table and the record would not be available until September 1.

The **New Database Advantage** is two-fold. First, the design is such that as DRPC files are received from each center, they can be processed immediately. Thus, those records are then available for pedigrees approximately one month earlier. Then, later in the month when all files have been received and processed, the various reports for the *Bulletin* can be generated. Thus, the publication time line for reports in the *Bulletin* will not change. The second advantage is that for records with only one ID mis-match, the new system will automatically use the Association's registration data on file, make the correction, and accept the record. This will alleviate many records from entering the edit file and eliminate the month delay for their acceptance. This will also decrease the manual editing time to review those records.

These are just two of the many New Database Advantages you will experience.

Notes: 1) Breed associations only receive 305d, 365d, complete, or terminated records; never any Records in Progress (RIP's).

2) **Enroll now.** The discount deadline for BSA and PTPR was January 31; however, you may enroll at any time. Be sure to enroll soon to keep your DHIR status continuous. Only DHIR records are eligible for the "How They're Doin'", Protein Plus, and Class Leader status, as well as Certified and Elite cow recognition.

Revised Top Cow PPR Listing

— *Another New Database Advantage*

Technology and timeliness allowed the use of the new database system to implement the revised Top Cow PPR List for the January 2008 evaluations. The use of Parent Averages for animals without type evaluations allowed the combining of the previous Top Cow PPR List and the Supplemental Cows into one list. All animals now have a PPR calculated. In addition, the previous screening on Net Merit \$ has been eliminated.