

INTRODUCTION

The publication of this volume of the Wisconsin D.H.I.A. Record (previously the Yearbook) has been made possible by the splendid cooperation of association fieldmen who have made current identification and lactation production reports from a total of 121 associations for the period June 1st, 1936 to May 31st, 1937. Since the permanent filing of eartag identification and production records was begun in 1934, 49,964 animals have been identified and production information has been recorded on 45,400 cows and on the daughters of 5698 sires.

During the twelve months (from June 1936 to the end of May 1937) covered by this bulletin, a total of 24077 lactation records providing progeny test information has been accumulated on the daughters of 287 new sires; 212 bulls (8 Brown Swiss, 47 Guernseys, 148 Holsteins, 7 Jerseys, and 2 Milking Shorthorns) had five or more tested daughters from tested dams, while 75 other sires had ten or more tested daughters but less than five from tested dams. This publication also gives information on 333 outstanding brood cows, and on 840 herds now in at least their third consecutive year of a herd testing program. All of the records of all of the cows in such herds have been used to estimate the average level of production of such units. It is to be hoped that the location of superior brood cow families and of promising sires in herds on a continuous testing program may do much to get the proper distribution and dissemination of good dairy stock among the dairy herds of this state. Safeguards must be set up to encourage the dairy cattle breeder to check his own farm management and testing program against that of farms from which he may select breeding stock for his own herd.

The Farm and Dairy Records Office of the Wisconsin College is at the present time making available to association members and other dairymen a permanent file of breeding information, a pedigree on each herd sire in a dairy herd improvement association herd, a live breeding list of proved and promising dairy sires, and, in addition, every attempt will be made to assist county agricultural agents, instructors of vocational agriculture and association members to locate dairy animals of apparent breeding worth.

During the past year the system of permanent recording of identification and production records for animals in D.H.I.A. tested herds has been adopted on a national scale, the central filing agency being the Division of Dairy Herd Improvement Investigations, Bureau of Dairy Industry. Beginning with June 1937, all identification and production records have been reported to the Bureau on their forms. The preparation of the 1938 Volume of the Record will be based upon production records reported for the period May 1937 to July 1, 1938, for all association cows that have finished the first 305 days of their lactation period. Wisconsin's 140 dairy herd improvement associations are now cooperating with the Bureau of Dairy Industry, in the establishment of the most comprehensive dairy cattle improvement program ever inaugurated.