

Producers earn production awards

Earlier this winter, producers were recognized for the high production records their cows and herds completed while using NorthStar Cooperative's DHI Services in 2006.

Wisconsin award winners

Three producers were recognized in NorthStar's Wisconsin service area. **Brantmeier Hilrose Dairy** in Sherwood, received the High Dollar Value Herd Average award. Brantmeier Dairy milks 102 cows and earned the award with a rolling herd average of 31,072 pounds of milk, 1,199 pounds of fat, 965 pounds of protein and a dollar value of \$3,876.

The award for Highest Dollar Value Protein Breed Herd was achieved by **Ron and Nicole Wussow** of Cecil. The Wussow's 29-cow Jersey herd obtained the award with an average of 22,392 pounds of milk, 1,097 pounds of fat, 749 pounds of protein and a dollar value of \$3,231. Additionally the Wussow's 81-cow Holstein herd earned the Highest 365-Day Milk Herd Average award with a record of 32,885 pounds of milk, 1,163 pounds of fat, 927 pounds of protein and a dollar value of \$3,756

The award for Lowest Somatic Cell Count Herd Average was earned by **Maria Pagenkoph** of Loyal. The herd aver-

aged 61,000 actual SCC, with production credentials of 27,984 pounds of milk, 966 pounds of fat and 786 pounds of protein.

Michigan, Indiana and Ohio award winners

Five producers using NorthStar's DHI Services in the Michigan/Indiana/Ohio service area were also honored.

Tim and Sandy VerHage of Allegan, Michigan achieved the award for High Dollar Value Herd Average. The VerHage herd of 73 Holstein cows won the award with a dollar value of \$4,225, and a production average of 31,189 pounds of milk, 1,490 pounds of fat and 938 pounds of protein.

The award for Lowest Somatic Cell Count Herd Average was achieved by **Tom Carson** of Hesperia, Michigan for an actual SCC average of 61,000. Carson's herd of 88 cows maintained the low SCC average with a rolling herd average of 24,935 pounds of milk, 932 pounds of fat and 723 pounds of protein.

Nor-Bert Farms of Bremen, Indiana won the Highest Dollar Value Protein Breed Herd award. The 20-cow Brown Swiss herd recorded a dollar value of \$3,288 with a production average of 23,277 pounds of milk, 1,089 pounds of fat and 779 of pounds of protein.

Zeeland, Michigan dairymen, **Dan and Paul Elzinga** earned the Highest 365-Day Milk Herd Average award. The herd of 236 cows averaged 33,915 pounds of milk, 1,138 pounds of fat, 1,000 pounds of protein and a dollar value of \$3,881.

The award for Top Lifetime Cow for Milk Production was again earned by a Blackstar daughter in the **Vanderploeg Holsteins** herd in Ithaca, Michigan. Margene Blackstar Lola won the award with production totals of 460,788 pounds of milk, 15,083 pounds of fat and 13,505 pounds of protein in 11 lactations.

In addition to the production award winners, **River Ridge Dairy** of Coopersville, Michigan received the Progressive Dairy Producer of the Year award. River Ridge Dairy earned this award by having the greatest dollar value increase over a five-year period. Production increases during the past five years for River Ridge Dairy totaled 9,416 pounds of milk, 394 pounds of fat, 286 pounds of protein and an increase in dollar value of \$1,204. Today the herd boasts a rolling herd average on 1,005 cows of 28,678 pounds of milk, 1,095 pounds of fat, 852 pounds of protein and a dollar value of \$3,480.

For more information on production achievements, ask your area NorthStar DHI technician for a copy of the Annual Performance Summary. ★



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