

ABSTRACTS
*** Author Presenting Paper**

104 Survey of management practices used for the highest producing DHI herds in the United States. D. W. Kellogg^{*1}, Z. B. Johnson¹, and J. A. Pennington², ¹*University of Arkansas, Fayetteville*, ²*Agricultural Extension Service, Little Rock, AR*.

The average amount of milk produced by dairy herds varies greatly in the United States. Milk production per cow is a widely used measure of efficiency of dairy herds and can have a major influence on the profitability of the farm. Some producers have achieved more than 14,000 kg of milk per cow annually while the national average was 8,230 kg in 1999. Many factors combine to impact average production of a herd. This study was initiated to identify management practices that characterize the highest producing dairy herds. The top DHI herds in the country, based on yearly rolling herd average for milk, were identified and addresses were provided by DHI processing centers. At least 10 herds in each region of the country were included. The herd managers were surveyed to obtain information on nutritional management, productive management, herd health management, facilities, implementation incentives, preferred information delivery systems, and future plans.

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