

Keep yourself current on dairy information

—by Michael F. Hutjens—

WE LIVE in the information age. Finding answers and contacts continue to be a challenge and necessity. This magazine provides valuable resources and contacts to assist dairy owners and managers, employees, veterinarians, and professionals.



Hutjens

Two new internet-based resources that complement *Hoard's* efforts are S-PAC and DAIReXNET. I encourage you to explore these two internet-based information resources. Here are brief descriptions and access information.

S-PAC . . .

Searchable Proceedings of Animal Conferences (S-PAC) is a comprehensive database of animal production and management conference proceedings developed by the American Dairy Science Association (ADSA). This on-line series of papers allows professionals to search and read published papers presented at conferences across the United States. In the database, 27 different conference proceedings or meetings are available, including current and previous years. Individual paper copies of one conference proceeding can cost \$20 to \$35, let alone the cost of attending a meeting (transportation, motel, and time). Also, for international professionals, this is one way to "attend/access" these U.S. educational programs. Here is a list of conference proceedings and available years:

Alternative Feeds for Livestock and Poultry (2003)

Annual convention of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners (1997 to 2007)

The author is an extension dairy specialist at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana.

Annual meeting of the United States Animal Health Association (2002 to 2006)

Arizona Dairy Production Conference (2003 to 2007)

Bioethics Symposium (2007)

Colorado Dairy Nutrition Conference (2004 to 2007)

Cornell Nutrition Conference for Feed Manufacturers (2001 to 2007)

Florida Dairy Production Conference (2000-2008)

Florida Ruminant Nutrition Symposium (2005 to 2008)

Four-State Dairy Nutrition and Management Conference (1999 to 2008)

Intermountain Nutrition Conference (2000 to 2007)

International Symposium on Lameness in Ruminants (2002)

John's Disease Integrated Program (2006 to 2007)

Joint annual meeting of ADSA and animal science society (1998 to 2007)

Managing and Marketing Quality Holstein Steers (2005)

Mid-South Ruminant Nutrition Conference (1997 to 2007)

Minnesota Nutrition Conference (2007)

National Alternative Feeds Symposium (1991 and 1995)

Pacific Northwest Animal Nutrition Conference (2000 to 2007)

Dairy Calf and Heifer Conference (2004 to 2007)

Pennsylvania Dairy Cattle Nutrition Workshop (2001 to 2007)

Southeast Dairy Herd Management Conference (1999 to 2007)

Southwest Nutrition and Management Conference (2002 to 2007)

Tennessee Nutrition Conference (2005 to 2007)

Tri-State State Dairy Nutrition Conference (1998 to 2008)

Virginia Tech Feed and Nutritional Management Cow College (2005 to 2007)

Western Dairy Management Conference (1993 to 2007)

Users can search by author, con-

ference, or key word(s). For example, I entered my name — "Hutjens," and 82 articles were listed. Next, I entered "mycoplasma" resulting in a total of 136 papers listed (23 articles were listed when "mycoplasma" and "mastitis" key words were entered). Dates and tentative programs for future conferences also are listed for user reference.

Viewing S-PAC can be accomplished by going to: <http://spac.adsa.org>

For \$5, you can register for five days to try/sample this database. The annual cost of S-PAC is \$75 a year for ADSA members or \$150 for nonmembers (it may be more economical to become an ADSA member and receive membership benefits, including access to the electronic format of the Journal of Dairy Science for \$185 annually).

DAIReXNET . . .

DAIReXNET was launched in October 2007 in connection with the World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wis. This national, extension-based and driven web resource was developed as part of the national eXtension effort and is designed to meet the educational and decision-making needs of dairy owners and employees, allied industry partners, extension educators, and consumers. Through collaboration with dairy professionals, relevant and cutting-edge information and learning opportunities are provided which are science-based and peer-reviewed in a format accessible 24/7. Informational resources include:

- Answers to frequently asked questions (you can review answers or ask a question that will be answered by a specialist in that area).

- Access to information by top experts in their fields of expertise (state websites are listed for easy access and documents).

- Access to cutting-edge content

in 13 subject areas (listed below).

- Searchable state and regional newsletters (most current information available every month).

- Consumer links relating to dairy industry and its products.

- News and lists of events.

Resources are provided in the following 12 subject areas: business management and farm labor, calf and heifer management, facilities, food safety, genetics, health and diseases, mastitis and milking management, milk marketing, nutrient management, nutrition of milking and dry cows, organic dairy production, and reproduction. A thirteenth area includes several articles available in Spanish for Spanish-speaking farm workers and educators.

Current plans are to continue to expand these resource areas, include pilot areas in the form of learning modules, conduct webinar meetings for dairy producers and allied industry on cutting-edge, timely topics, and develop webinar training sessions for county extension educators across the U.S. Leadership for this project is provided by 10 dairy extension professionals from across the United States. Also, our subject areas are led by 13 dairy experts from across the country. To date, 211 dairy professionals representing 35 universities and allied industries and the top 25 states for milk production have contributed to DAIReXNET. DAIReNET can be found at: http://www.extension.org/dairy_cattle

No charges or fees are involved. This resource is available to anyone with internet access.

Happy reading!



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