

PocketDairy - DHI Management On The Go
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The Dairy Records Management System (DRMS) at Raleigh, NC and Ames, IA has a PC-based on-farm program for DHI records for several years. In addition to the capability of having up-to-date cow and heifer records available as needed this program called PCDART has extensive report generating and graphing features. PCDART was designed to make data, as up-to-date as the producer kept it, available for making management decisions. Reports, lists, etc. can be printed and carried with you for future use and reference. Any data which needs to be entered must be recorded some how and then entered on the computer keyboard.

PocketDairy has transformed this system into a data system for herd management that you can literally carry in your shirt pocket. You can now take your cow and heifer records wherever you go. Palm and Handspring hand-held organizers or personal data assistants (PDAs) can now be used with PCDART so that you can enter data and display reports in a device which can be held in the palm of your hand. Data is transferred and synchronized between the PDA or palm-device through a cradle or cable which hooks the device to your personal computer. This process is called "hot-synch" ing.

Records for cows, heifers, or both can be entered or displayed. Reports which can be displayed are:

- 1) Animals to Calve, Expected Heats, or to Dry Off
- 2) Up to 6 reports from PCDART
- 3) Abbreviated cow pages

Data which can be entered at cow-side in the PDA include:

- 1) Animals to turn dry
- 2) Animals left herd
- 3) Animals calving
- 4) Animals to bred
- 5) Health data on animals
- 6) Reproduction information from vet checks
- 7) Body condition scores
- 8) Hospital status
- 9) Heifer growth data

After data entry on the palm device, all that needs to be done to include newly inputted data in the PCDART database is to perform a hot-synch operation.

Palm and Handspring PDAs come with either 2Mb or 8Mb of memory and range in price from about \$150 to \$250. Devices with color screens and other options can cost up \$500 or more. In addition to their use for PocketDairy these devices are also electronic organizers for 1) schedules, 2) names, addresses and telephone/fax numbers, 3) To Do lists, and 4) Memo items.

If you want to see demonstration of PocketDairy contact Md-South Dairy Records (1-800-756-3442) or Dr. Jack McAllister (859-257-7540).