



For Immediate Release

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Edward Fiez receives National DHIA Outstanding Service Award

BOISE, Idaho (March 16, 2009) – Edward Fiez, Caldwell, Idaho, received the National Dairy Herd Information Association's (DHIA) Outstanding Service Award March 5, in Boise, Idaho, in conjunction with the association's annual meeting. A University of Idaho Extension dairy specialist from 1970-1999, Fiez continues to work closely with the Idaho DHIA program even though he's retired. He presented at the 2000 Idaho DHIA Supervisor Conference and assisted with the 2000 Idaho DHIA Sample Takers Conference. The National DHIA Outstanding Service Award honors a person who has dedicated service to improving DHIA and provided notable leadership to advancing DHIA.

From 1999-2006, Fiez continued to evaluate exams submitted by prospective supervisors following completion of the self-teaching packet that he developed. These workbooks, used by dairy cow and dairy goat supervisors, provide general information on record keeping systems, data reporting and DHI rules and regulations.

Fiez was instrumental in organizing Idaho DHIA and provided guidance through the critical transition to hired management. He offered key support to Idaho DHIA in meeting initial National DHIA Quality Certification standards by working effectively with the board of directors, supervisors, milk testing laboratories and dairy records processing centers.

In cooperation with Washington State University Extension agents, Fiez developed a set of herd summary templates to improve users' knowledge of the DHI Herd Summary. These templates were originally distributed as a western regional Extension publication and are still widely used by producers, educators and allied industry throughout the West. DHI Computing Service Inc. incorporated the templates into the option list of reports offered to its members.

Fiez's educational programs focused on the practical use of records in making dairy management decisions. A quarterly newsletter generated under his leadership routinely contained articles that stressed the importance of using herd records. To enhance the value and practical application of the information, Fiez developed procedures to electronically collect, summarize and transfer production data directly from DHI-Provo. This allowed large data sets to be analyzed for use in educational articles on herd management.

National DHIA, a trade association for the dairy records industry, serves the best interests of its members and the dairy industry by maintaining the integrity of dairy records and advancing dairy information systems.

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