



Jersey producers who are using robotic milking system and not on official DHI test can now get production records on performance pedigrees and progeny reports with the new Automated Milking Record (AMR) program. Recently approved by the American Jersey Cattle Association (AJCA) Board of Directors, AMR will enable producers to more widely use and capitalize on information provided by robotic milking systems.

Though robotic records will be published on pedigrees and progeny reports, AMR records are not used for genetic evaluations. So, unless a cow is genotyped, she will not receive a Predicted Transmitting Ability (PTA). As well, AMR records will not receive Data Collection Ratings (DCRs), so are ineligible for AJCA production award programs.

In this month's Jersey Jargon, we will further explain details of the AMR program and how you can enroll.

Eligibility Requirements

Dairy producers who use on-farm systems that record both milk weights and components every milking and are not on official DHI test can sign up for AMR. They must also have robotic software that monitors calibrated milk weights versus bulk tank weights, such as Lely's Time for Cows (T4C) software, and give monthly access to reports to AgriTech Analytics (ATA), the only Dairy Records Processing Center currently accepting AMR records.

How it Works

AMR is available as a third option, along with Plus and Basic, for the AJCA performance programs REAP (Registration, Equity, Appraisal and Performance), TPE (Total Performance Evaluation) and Performance Records. Fees for AMR will be the same as Plus and Basic.

Dairy producers can sign up for AMR by contacting their area representative or the AJCA herd services department. ATA then works with herd owners to establish a schedule for reports to be retrieved from the robotic system. ATA processes the production records and submits them to the AJCA on a monthly basis. When lactations are completed, they are added to the AJCA database and reported on pedigrees and progeny reports.

Genetic Evaluations and Award Programs

AMR lactations are not submitted to the Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding, so will not be included in genetic evaluations for males or females. Therefore, sire summaries will not include records from AMR cows and cows will not receive a PTA when enrolled in AMR. It should be noted, though, that cows that are genotyped will continue to receive Genomic PTAs.

As well, AMR records are not assigned DCRs, so they are not eligible for AJCA award programs that require a minimum DCR, including the National Jersey Youth Production Contest, the Pot O'Gold Production Contest, Hall of Fame records, Honor Roll records and the National Class Leader list. They will also not be included in individual herd averages or the overall breed average.

To enroll in AMR, contact AJCA Herd Services by email at herdservices@usjersey.com or phone at 614/322-3636.