Dairy Comp Newsletter

Backup Plans

Did you plan on your computer crashing today? If it did how long would it take to rebuild and restore your data? What daily tasks would not get done? There is never a good time for equipment failure. Dairy One now has an all-in-one backup solution tailored to farms with more than one computer.
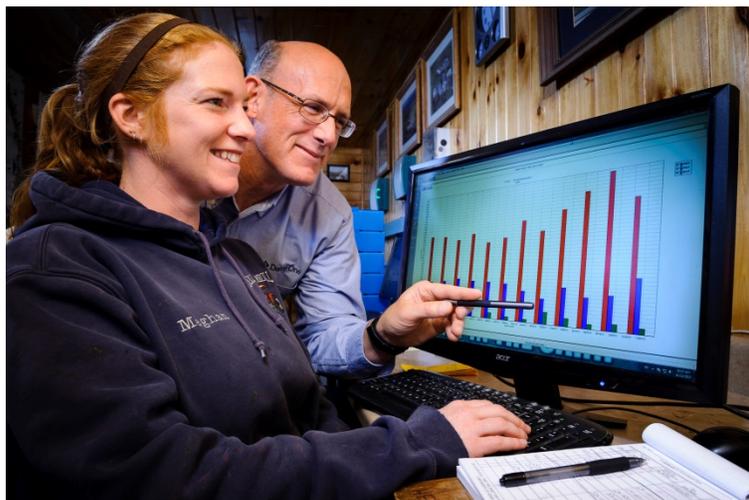
Our backup solutions provide

- Fast, local backups
- Fast data recovery that leads to minimal downtime for disaster recovery
- Optional cloud storage for off-site storage
- File sharing capabilities with other farm computers or farm advisors with email invitations

Having a complete backup system can prevent a bad day from becoming an emergency with lost time, frustration and data lost forever. Contact us today for more information on a backup system made for your farm.

Version 8

Version 8 is the latest cowfile version available for Dairy Comp 305. Version 8 is an expanded data file that has more room for storage of information and new program features. It is available to all Dairy Comp customers who have high speed internet and subscribe to updates each year. To start version 8 please contact the AMR group or fill out and return the version 8 form that is at the end of the newsletter. Some of the new features of version 8 cowfiles are:

- More data storage- more item space, longer stored commands
- Pen capacities – what percent of stalls are used in each pen
- Event colors for cowcards
- More protocol options and more protocol storage
- Increased sire short name capabilities
- More cowcard events displayed
- More scheduled tasks

Dairy One

Command Line Basics

The command line is the most powerful feature of Dairy Comp 305. Learning to master the command line will give you access to that power. Following are some tips for getting started.

Every time you want to write a command, ask yourself the following questions:

What do I want to do?- LIST or SHOW

What do I want to see?- ID, DIM, MILK, RPRO

Who do I want to see?- FOR DIM=1-15, PEN=2

How do I want to see the info?- BY or DOWNBY

Do I need anything else to clarify my list? Switches

1. Start with LIST or SHOW
   a. **SHOW**
2. Add in the items you want to see on your report-
   a. You can get a list of items to pick from by pushing the F1 button
   b. SHOW **ID DIM MILK RPRO**
3. Define the group of animals you want to see by using FOR
   a. SHOW ID DIM MILK RPRO **FOR DIM=1-50 PEN=2-4**
   b. SHOW ID DIM MILK RPRO **FOR DCC>150**
4. Use BY or DOWNBY to change the order of your list
   a. SHOW ID DIM MILK RPRO FOR DIM=1-50 PEN=2-4 **DOWNBY MILK**
   b. SHOW ID DIM MILK RPRO FOR DIM=1-50 PEN=2-4 **BY PEN MILK**
   c. SHOW ID DIM MILK RPRO FOR DIM=1-50 PEN=2-4 **BY PEN DOWNBY DIM**
5. Add a switch \ to help further define or enhance a report
   a. A (averages)
      B (alive and dead)
      D (dead cows only)
      P (paper save- columns)
      T (totals and stats)
      U (underline)
      2 (double space)
   b. SHOW ID DIM MILK RPRO FOR DIM=1-50 PEN=2-4 DOWNBY MILK**\PU**

Command Examples:

SHOW ID DUE DCC FOR DUE>0 LACT=0 BY DUE\P

SHOW ID RPRO DIM MILK PMILK SCC PSCC FOR RC=1

SHOW ID DIM MILK DSLH TBRD FOR DIM>150 TBRD>4 RC=3-4 DOWNBY DIM\2U

For more help in Dairy Comp go to HELP→ Contents and on the Index tab search for keywords such as LIST, SORTING, and FOR

Protocols/Hospital List: Meat and Milk Withholds

Proper care of sick cows, deciding which cows to treat and when to return them to food production, has a large impact on your dairy. Providing the proper treatment according to written protocols helps cows get better faster, allows you a basis to evaluate treatment methods, and protects the integrity of the milk and meat supply by avoiding drug residues. Conversely, improper treatment is expensive and makes it virtually impossible to evaluate the efficacy of a treatment. Many common treatment regimens cost $70 or more each day and the potential costs (time and money) of a drug residue violation are huge.

Implementing protocols and using the hospital list in Dairy Comp can make managing treated cows much simpler. The first step is implementing protocols. Begin by meeting with your veterinarian and updating your treatment protocols and enter them into the Protocols section of Dairy Comp 305. You will need to know the disease, the NADA number of the drug you will use to treat it, the duration of the treatment (in days), and the withdrawal periods for milk and meat. Now begin entering treatment events daily (e.g., Mastitis, Ketosis, DA). Dairy Comp will automatically set the milk withholding and a meat withholding dates to the correct number of days for the product used. Finally, you add the hospital list to the task scheduler in Dairy Comp so it is automatically printed every morning. The example hospital list below includes:


```
                                   Hospital List                                     -
    ID     LTDAT     MKDAT     BFDAT   PN     ID REM
   =====  ========  ========  ======== ===  ===== ============================
   22748   9/ 4/13  8/17/13   9/ 8/13   10  22748 _____
                                                  9/ 2 PNEU     EXNIMQQ     2:3
   22745   9/ 3/13  9/ 7/13   9/ 6/13    5  22745 _____
                                                  8/30 MAST     SLC5 RF     5:5
   22435   9/ 3/13  9/ 7/13   9/14/13    1  22435 _____
                                                  9/ 1 MAST     HET3 LR     3:3
```

A. All of the cows that need to be treated
B. What they are being treated for, and the product used
C. What day of treatment they are on
D. When the treatment ends (LTDAT)
E. The milk (MKDAT) and meat (BFDAT) withhold dates
F. The pen each cow should be returned to at the end of treatment (PN)

Treatments and drug recording can be taken to the next step with Drug Watch which helps track inventory, individual cow treatments, and protocols to help with FDA compliance and producing a safe food supply. Call today for more information on setting up protocols or more information on Drug Watch.
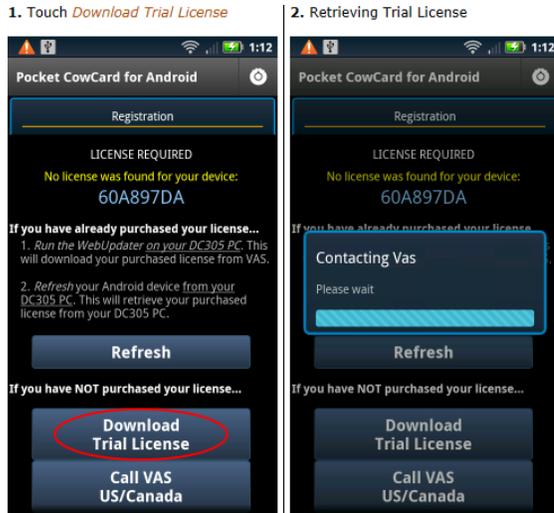
Save time on herd health day

One of the questions we ask potential software users is "How long does it take to prepare for herd health day?" The answer varies, but it usually ranges from 20 minutes to 2 hours. Recently a new customer shared that he used to spend at least 2 hours every Sunday afternoon pouring over his breeding charts and previous herd health lists to get ready for a Monday morning herd health check. With Dairy Comp, the herd health list is now waiting on the printer for him when he arrives at the barn in the morning. Assuming that herd health is done every other week this customer saved 48 hours (4 hours x 12 months) each year by using herd management software. The best part is that when configured properly Dairy Comp makes the list quickly and never misses a cow. Saving time is always welcome but getting the job done correctly is where the profit is. If you are not using the vet list in Dairy Comp or want to add new parameters please call us today!
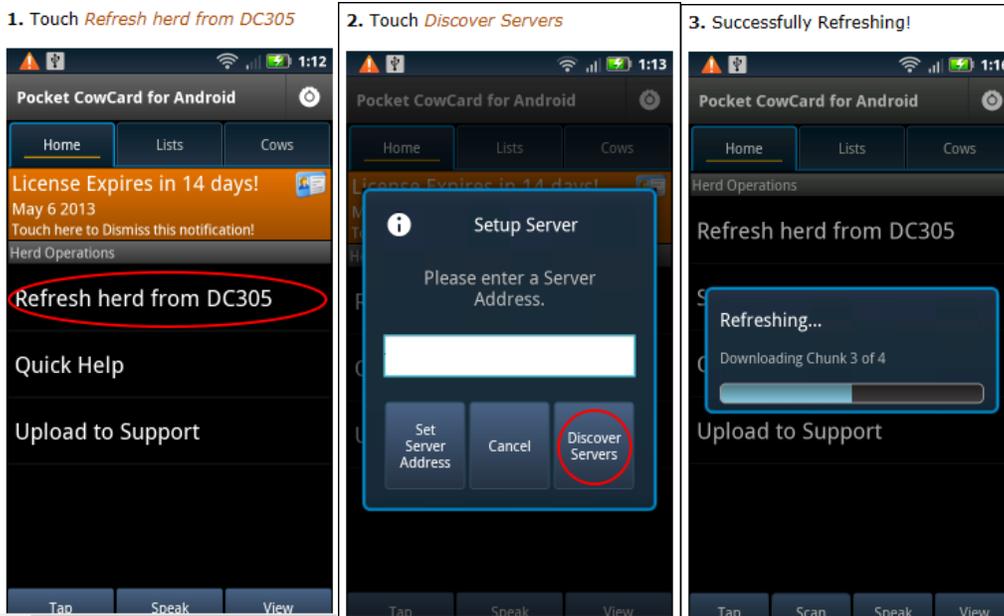
Pocket Cowcard Trial version for Android

Pocket Cowcard (PCC) is a useful management tool that can help you make decisions cowside. Read only versions of PCC allow you to see all of the events, items, and production information on a cow just like in Dairy Comp. This helps to make breeding, treatment, and other management decisions while out in the barn without a return trip to the office. Management lists can also be made for the read only version. Examples of popular management lists are cows due for walking through prefresh, weaning lists for trips to the calf barn, and pen inventory lists. Pocket Cowcard is available as a read only and read/write version on Windows Mobile and as a read only on all Android devices and read/write on select Android devices. A 14-day trial version of Pocket Cowcard is available for all Android devices. To download the trial license use the following steps-

1. In the security settings- Allow installation of apps from sources other than the Play store needs to be checked
2. On your phone go to www.vas.com/android and click on the link to download the PCC-Android.apk
3. Open the downloaded PCC-Android.apk
4. Review the permissions and touch Install
5. Touch open to launch PCC Android

6.

1. Touch *Download Trial License*

2. Retrieving Trial License

7.

1. Touch *Refresh herd from DC305*

2. Touch *Discover Servers*

3. Successfully Refreshing!

Monitoring Heifer Growth

Tracking heifer weights is a relatively low cost and easy way to add a lot of information to your heifer management program and potentially add a lot of money to your bottom line.

The idea that heifers that are fed and grow rapidly return more profit than those that do not is not new. It is generally accepted that heifers that grow well have about a 1700 pound per lactation advantage over herd mates that do not. Using a $20 milk price and $7.50 per CWT feed price the additional income from a well-

raised heifer is approximately $200 per lactation. Larger calves also carry more reserves to ward off or minimize the severity of illness. The soft income from not treating animals can be a significant savings in both time, medication, and lost animals.

The process of capturing the weights is very simple. Place the scales where it is convenient to load the animal onto the scale, walk the animal onto the scale, allow a second or two for the scale to stabilize, enter or scan the animal ID and press a button to store the ID and weight. When you are done weighing animals simply lift the indicator off the scale and carry it to the Dairy Comp 305 computer. Plug it in and transfer the data to Dairy Comp with a few key strokes. Dairy Comp automatically records the weights and calculates growth response.

You will need three or four weights to get an accurate picture of growth and response in your herd. Common weigh points are birth, weaning, moving into the breeding pen, and at pregnancy confirmation. Dairy Comp 305 now provides three key values: actual weight, current daily gain, and predicted weight at a date. Combined these give us the ability to verify our data, get a picture of how heifer growth is currently and if it is changing, and identify poor performers.

There are new tools which include methods to adjust weights taken at specific management events and standardize them to a specific days-of-age. The underlying concepts arose from our experience with developing tools for monitoring milk production and applying it to weight gains.

For example, a herd could be weaning calves in a range of 48 to 65 days old and weighing each one at weaning. However, it would be difficult to easily and fairly compare the weaning weights of calves that were weaned at much different days-of-age. We can now "correct" these weights that took place at weaning to a standard age (e.g., 56 days-of-age).

Likewise, we can correct daily gains to standardized days-of-age. We also have methods to estimate either an age where a target weight should be attained or an estimated weight at a future age. Finally, we are developing analytical approaches using these standardized weights. These reports will be included in GUIDE in the very near future and will be available via a web update.

Weighing heifers is a relatively inexpensive and easy way to help evaluate your current heifer growing enterprise, monitor changes, and find poor performers sooner. A set of scales, a copy of Dairy Comp 305, and allocating some labor for gathering the weights are all that are required. Call the Agricultural Management Resources group at Dairy One for more details.

Keeping your Business Current:
It may be time to update your old computer

Every dairy farm, regardless of size and number of employees, uses computers: they have become a necessary part of your business. But has your computer remained current and kept pace compared to other farm inputs? If your computer's operating system is Microsoft Windows XP or earlier, it is out of date and will become vulnerable very soon. The following statement is from Microsoft:

"Windows XP will go out of support on April 8, 2014. If your organization has not started the migration to a modern desktop, you are late."

Microsoft XP was first released on October 2001, thus making it over 12 years old. There are two new Microsoft operating systems that are available from Microsoft. To find the operating system on your windows computer, hold down the windows button on your keyboard and press the 'R' key at the same time. When a box appears, type winver and press enter. Call the AMR group at Dairy One at 1-800-344-2697 extension 3 if you need help finding your Windows version or if you need help replacing an older computer.

Consider using Dairy One as the solution for keeping your PC up to date with an excellent warranty service, and the ability to move other programs and files to the new PC. Dairy One makes transitioning to a new PC an easy process.

CowCard Changes

Page 6 Changes for Lactation>0

Page 6 for adult cows displays milk production and linear SCC data.

The graph now includes key reproductive and disease events

| Event#	Event	Typical Name	Page6 Letter
1	Fresh	FRESH	F
5	Bred	BRED	B
6	Pregnant	PREG	P
7	Open	OPEN	O
11	Dry	DRY	D
##	Lameness	LAME	L
##	Mastitis	MAST	M

Notes
The lameness and mastitis events are mapped and identified in the cowfile by use of:
ALTER | 7 Protocols | Advanced Tab | Set up items

Example Page 6 Graph
Note: Clicking on the line will display the values
Note: Floating over an event letter will display a popup box with the event details
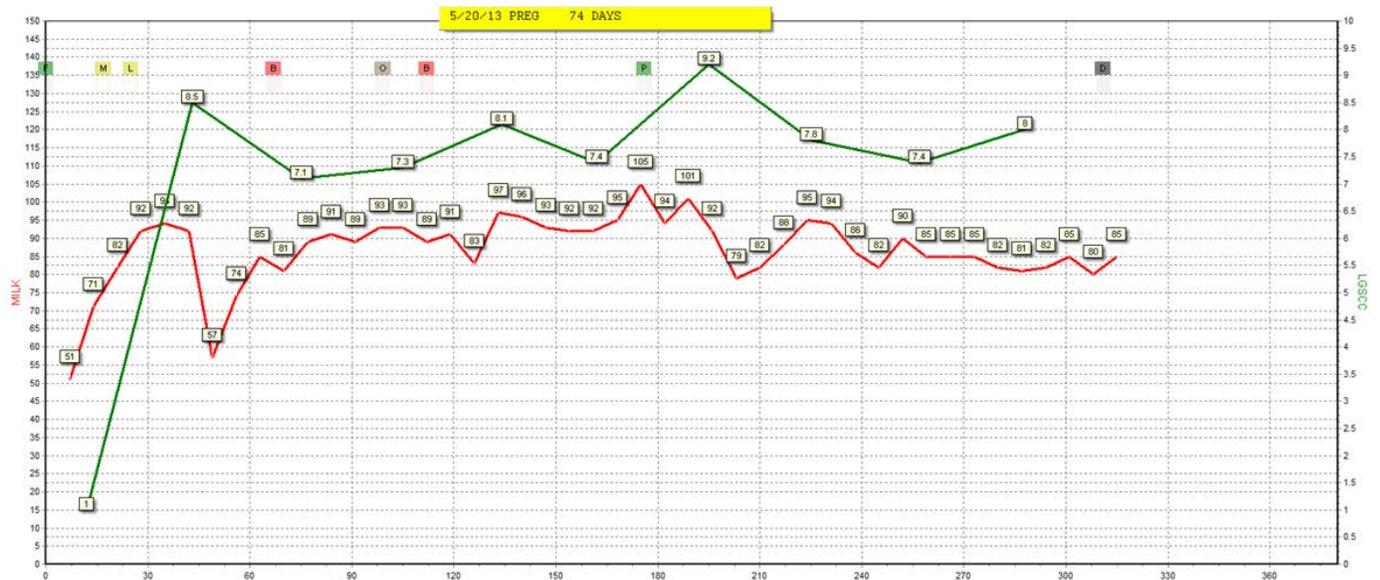
Cowcard Changes for Heifers

CowCard Page 6 Changes

- Page 6 for heifers now displays weights and heights. It has also been relabeled as "Lifetime".

Similar to the adult cowcard page 6

- Key reproductive events are shown on the graph with a letter
- Floating over the event letter will display a popup box with event information
- Clicking on the weight or height line will display the underlying data

CowCard Page 5 Change

- CowCard Page 5 (PrevLacts for lactation>0 animals) is relabeled as Dam Info for lactation=0.

Box and Whisker Plots

DC305 now has the ability to display data via a method called "Box and Whiskers". This method allows visualization of the spread (distribution) of the data. This allows us to look at data in a new way such as milk distribution by pen or weight distribution by pen.

General format: GRAPH *item* BY *item* \O {the letter "O"}

Example: GRAPH MILK BY PEN \O
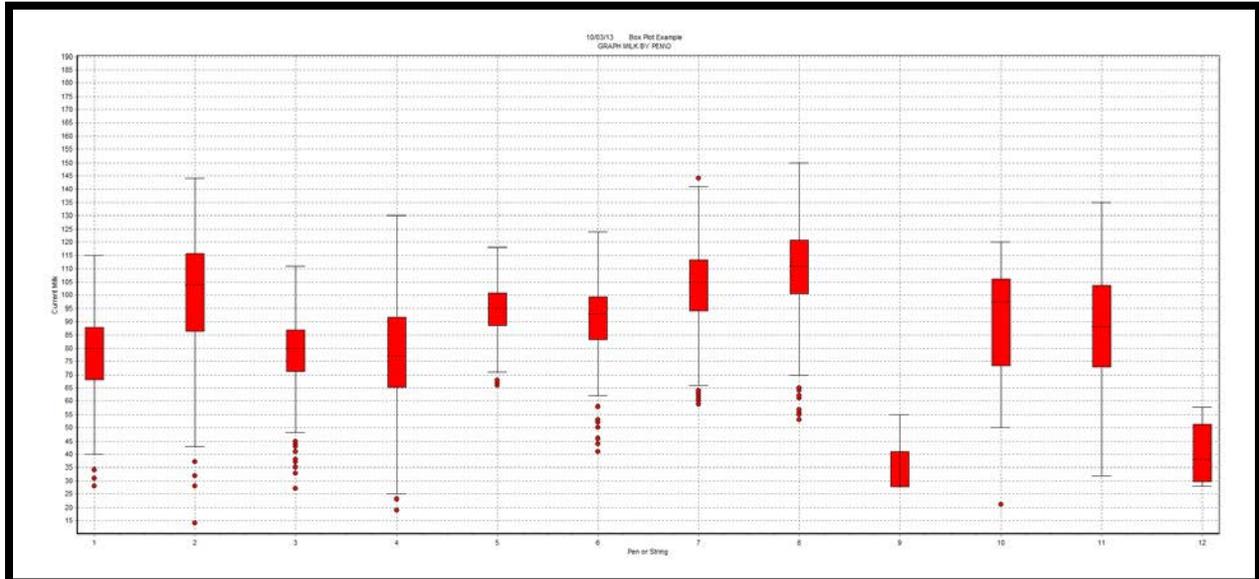
Explanation of display

Description

1 = Dots represent outliers on the upper end of values

2 = Dots represent outliers on the lower end of values

3 = Line within box is the median [middle value]

4 = Top of box is the 75th percentile
   (75% of values are below, 25% are above)

5 = Bottom of box is the 25th percentile
   (25% of values are below, 75% are above)

6 = Lower limit of InterQuartile Range
   (lowest value within 1.5 x length of box from box bottom)

7 = High limit of InterQuartile Range
   (highest value within 1.5 x length of box from box top)

Box itself contains 50% of the individual measurements

Table

When a Box and Whiskers command is run, a table is also created on the report tab.

It includes information in addition to the graph parameters (Count, Mean (arithmetic average), and Standard Deviation).

By PEN	Count	Min	Q1	Median	Q3	Max	Mean	StDev
1	266	28	68	80	88	115	77	16
2	272	14	86	104	116	144	99	23
3	297	27	71	80	87	111	78	14
4	289	19	65	77	92	130	78	19
5	332	35	88	95	101	118	94	11
6	336	41	83	93	100	124	91	13
7	324	59	94	105	114	184	103	17
8	319	53	100	111	121	150	110	17
9	1	55	28	55	41	55	55	0
10	16	21	73	98	107	120	89	27
11	31	32	73	88	104	135	88	22
12	4	28	30	38	52	58	41	14
Total	2487	14	79	92	105	184	92	20

Dairy One Camera Systems

Farms are a 24-hour a day, 7 day a week business and you can't be everywhere all the time. Cameras can help your business become more profitable and efficient by using cameras as a management tool. They can be used for training purposes, security against theft, monitoring cattle movement, calving areas, feed alleys, satellite facilities and anywhere else that you may need. Dairy One camera systems provide:

- Clear video feed with automatic light control and infrared operation from anywhere on the farm
- Reliability with weather proof enclosures
- Security for the images with encrypted networks and alerts if a camera is moved, covered or off line
- Remote access- view cameras from other computers on the network, the Internet, or your smartphone

One of the best features of the camera systems is working with a team who has farm knowledge. They start with a site survey to see where the needs are for your farm and continue with expert installation, training, follow up support, and maintenance.

Find us on Facebook!

Dairy One is now on Facebook! Visit http://www.facebook.com/dairyone to like our page for the latest news about what's happening at Dairy One and information on our products and services.

Feedwatch: Maximize your most costly input

Dairy One would like to introduce the two latest members of our team, John Lounsbury and Brent Croscut. Both bring many years of dairy knowledge and experience to the group. They are using that knowledge to bring the newest program version, version 8, to our existing customers and introduce the program to new customers.

Feedwatch helps dairies manage their most costly input—feed—through its many features. Feedwatch can help:

- Eliminate feed sheets
- Monitor dry matter intakes
- Optimize feed expense
- Verify feed accuracy through weekly feeder summaries and feed histories
- Track inventories
- Reduce Feed wastes
- Optimize pen feedings through automatic scheduling
- Track income over feed costs
- Integrate with Chemwatch, which provides instant dry matter testing on forages and feed ingredients

If you are interested in Feedwatch version 8, or starting with Feedwatch or Chemwatch, please contact John or Brent today at 800-344-2697 ext. 3.

Dairy Comp 305
Version 8 Cowfile Conversion Agreement

Account Number: _____

Contact Person: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____State: _____ Zip: _____

Ph: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

I understand that by converting my existing Dairy Comp 305 program to Version 8 I am agreeing to the following requirements:

> ➢ Subscribing to an update plan each year for as long as I use Dairy Comp 305.
> ➢ Maintaining a broadband Internet connection on the computer that runs Dairy Comp 305
> ➢ Receiving all program updates for Dairy Comp 305 via the Internet.
> ➢ Changing the serial number associated with my copy of Dairy Comp 305.

Name (please Print): _____ Title: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return this form to:
Attention: Jyll Strothmann
Dairy One
730 Warren Road
Ithaca, NY 14850
Or via FAX 607-257-6808