

Lancaster Farming

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At the first of two Lancaster County Holstein Breeders Association barn meetings were, from left: Arthur (Art) Wenger, Manheim RD2, on whose farm the meeting was held, Wenger's 18-year-old

son Nelson, who has "taken quite an interest" in the family dairy enterprise, and Clair M. Hershey, Nottingham RD1, Association meeting chairman.

Holstein Owners Hear Explanation Of Cow Classification Program

Many area farmers, including some wives and children, attended the first of two barn meetings sponsored by the Lancaster County Holstein Breeders Association.

The first meeting was held at the Arthur Wenger farm, Manheim RD2.

The meeting involved the classification of Wenger's Holstein herd under the direction of John Gross of the Holstein-Friesian Association of America.

Besides classifying the animals, Gross picked out three of Wenger's animals to go over point by point to explain how the classification was reached. Those who attended had an opportunity to try their own skill on two of the animals before Gross explained his own rating; several farmers came up with a rating very close to Gross'.

A similar meeting is slated for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday on the Loren Zimmerman Farm, East Earl RD1, with William Kent as classifier. The Zimmerman farm is one mile west of Goodville along Route 23.

The results of the classification of Wenger's 40-cow milking herd showed one animal rated excellent and five very good. Gross said the national average is only slightly more than one per cent rated excellent, and about 12 per cent very good, indicating Wenger's herd had some top-notch animals.

For the Wengers, this is the eighth classification which is made every 16 months.

Wenger began his herd in 1951. With 104 acres, over half

of it in corn, he grows all his own feed except the protein, he said.

During his explanation, Gross said the final score of classification for the animal is based on 30 per cent each for general appearance and mammary, and 20 per cent each for dairy character and body.

He went over the animals point by point to explain the factors that make up these broad categories.

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Crampiness Is Cited As Breeding Problem

Crampiness in dairy cows is a problem in Southeastern Pennsylvania, according to Bill Kent classifier for the Holstein Friesian Association of America.

Speaking at the barn meeting of Arthur Wenger, Manheim RD2, this week, Kent said that crampiness can be detected in significant numbers of cows and even larger numbers are carriers or may be subject to the trait.

He said crampiness is recessive and is passed on in breeding. He defined it as a pinching of the nerve in the thoracic area of the hump which causes muscle spasms.

Kent said considerable research into crampiness in beef cattle has been conducted at the University of Florida.

Kent presently is doing some research of his own. He said preliminary indications are that all the Holstein crampiness traits may trace back to one bull used in the 1930's, but he's doing extensive research into the blood lines of animals with crampiness before announcing his conclusion.

If the blood line that's carrying the recessive crampiness can be identified, it would be possible to breed the trait out of the dairy industry, he indicated.

Meanwhile, crampiness is so prevalent that he can expect to detect 26 to 40 cases out of each 1,000 to 1,500 animals classified during a three week period, he said.

Often, several crampy animals are found in one herd where the recessive trait has become well established over many generations of breeding. Many animals in these herds which aren't actually crampy may be carriers

or subject to crampiness as they age or if they're injured, he said.

For the farmer, crampiness means irritated and pained cows which don't produce as well and often don't produce as long. Since the long lasting cows are generally considered the farmer's biggest money makers, crampiness can seriously detract from the profitability of the herd, he explained.



Michael Burton
Penn Manor Ag Teacher

Michael Burton Is New Penn Manor Teacher

Michael Burton, a June graduate of Penn State University in ag education, has assumed duties as vo-ag teacher at Penn Manor High School.

A native of Bradford County, Burton will have responsibility for the Penn Manor Young Farmers and junior ag. He will teach the ninth and eleventh grades.

Mylin Voted President Of Young Farmers

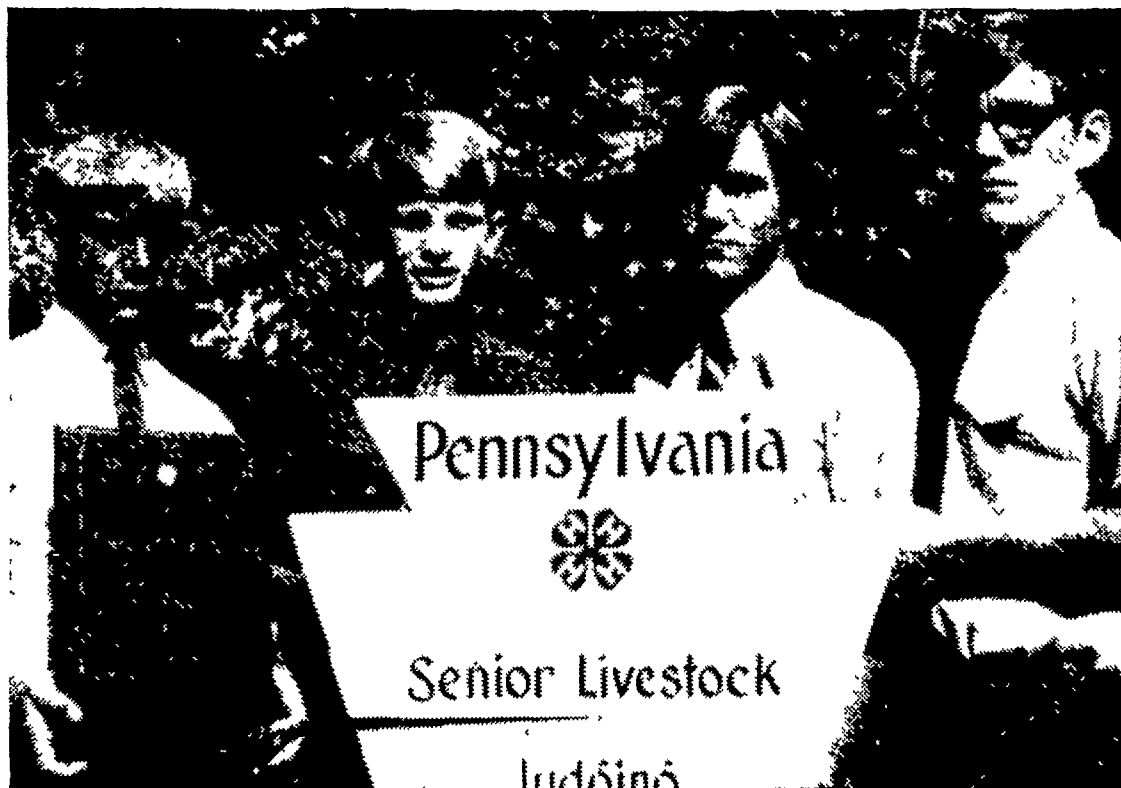
Glen Mylin was elected president of the Penn Manor Young Farmers at the organization's picnic recently at the Safe Harbor picnic grounds.

Mylin succeeds J. Larry Hess, who automatically becomes vice president for the new year.

Other new officers are Lloyd Stehman, secretary, Early Newcome, treasurer, and Melvin Sheitzer, chaplain.

The Young Farmers also voted on a program plan for the coming year, including both educational courses and activities. Michael Burton, new agriculture teacher, noted Friday, however, that voting was close in many instances and further discussion will have to be held on the program.

Weather for the picnic was excellent and the large family group which attended enjoyed a few innings of softball and other activities before the delicious grilled chicken dinner and Young Farmers meeting.



Members of the first place Lancaster County 4-H team in the senior livestock judging contest at State 4-H Days at Penn State this week, from left, are: Clark

Stauffer, Ephrata RD1; Gary Dean, Strasburg RD1; Burnell Buchen, Manheim RD3, and Ed Donough, Manheim RD4. See story on Page 8.

Farm Calendar

Saturday, August 15
Hereford Field Day cancelled.
1-7 p.m. — Lancaster County Swine Producers Field Day, Farm and Home Center.

Tuesday, August 18
7:30 p.m. — Lancaster County Holstein Breeders Association barn meeting, Loren Zimmerman Farm, East Earl RD1.

8 p.m. — Farm and Home
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