

# Lancaster Farming

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## Dairymen Reminded of Proper Cow-Grass Management

By Max Smith  
County Ag Agent

Dairymen planning to turn the herd to lush forage in the next few weeks should give particular attention to the handling of the milking cows

Grass-flavored milk is not of top quality and may cause a problem with your milk dealer if a tank of milk is rejected

Dairymen are urged to turn their cows to pasture for short periods of time at first (15 to 30 minutes) and then gradually extend the grazing period. This

practice will reduce the danger of bloating and scouring of the cows

Also, it is strongly advised that the herd be fed some form of dry matter such as silage, hay, or straw before going to pasture. This practice should be continued into the grazing season

In order to prevent off-flavored milk, the cows should be removed from the pasture at least four hours prior to the next milking period. If they are kept indoors during this period, the barn should be well ventilated

The digestive process of the cows in a poorly ventilated barn may also present barn odors that will flavor the milk

If the pasture is infested with wild garlic, the milking herd should not be allowed to graze until the plants have been consumed by either young stock or dry cows. The garlic plants are very strong flavored and will reduce the quality of the entire milk supply

Before turning the herd to pasture, dairymen should inspect the pasture carefully for bottles, cans, and other solid waste that may have been deposited there during the winter months by some thoughtless litter-bug. Losses from poisoning may be prevented if this material is removed from the area before the cows are turned to pasture.

We realize that some dairymen have planted their permanent pasture land to silage corn for greater yields of feed nutrients, however, there is some land in the county suitable only for permanent pasture and good management on this land is timely

In addition, some dairymen plant winter grains such as rye, or cover crops such as bromegrass or orchard grass and plan to graze them early in the spring before plowing

Careful pasture management will make it possible for the herd to utilize these nourishing forage crops and reduce feed costs



Clyde Martin, center, discusses his herd in the Martin dairy barn Wednesday night to several area vo-ag teachers. Looking on are Steve Leiser, Solanco, FFA

teacher, left, and Donald Robinson, teacher at Garden Spot High School, New Holland.

## Area Ag Teachers Study Dairying

About 15 vo-ag teachers from four counties this week completed a Penn State University course on dairying.

Under the direction of Dr. Glenn Stevens, Penn State professor of agricultural education, the course is a model planned for use throughout the state

It is hoped the course will better prepare the vo-ag teachers to assist dairy farmers, Dr. Stevens explained

Dr. Stevens said the purpose of the course is to give vo-ag teachers better insight into the factors which go into breeding and managing quality dairy animals and superior dairy herds. The 15 members of the course, mostly agriculture teachers, were from York, Lancaster, Chester and Berks counties

During the sixth and final class meeting Wednesday night, the group visited the herd of Clyde Martin, East Earl RD1. Martin's activities include membership in the adult education class at the Garden Spot High School, director of Atlantic Breeders Coop, secretary of the Lancaster County Holstein Breeders Association, and former recognition as an outstanding member of the Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association

The work included observing the off-spring of selected AI bulls to compare the characteristics of offspring of different sires.

Farmers often ask for assistance in selecting sires for particular cows, Dr. Stevens noted in explaining the importance to ag teachers of this type of knowledge

He noted that farmers can breed for increased production, and for correcting any weaknesses in type. The breeder can breed for qualities such as vigor and taller animals, animals with stronger feet, legs and udder, better udder shape and attachment

some of the strengths and weaknesses of the animals.

Dr. Stevens noted that while good management and hard work are important in dairying part of the results do stem from the breeding program

The graduates of the adult education class received a one hour credit from Penn State



Among those participating in the Penn State course on dairying which was completed this week are: left to right, Charles Ackley, Ephrata High School; Robert Herr, and Don Robinson, Garden Spot High School, New Holland. While the course is designed to further improve the

quality of advice available to local farmers from vo-ag teachers, Dr. Glenn Stevens, Penn State professor of agricultural education, who conducted the course, cited the three as among those who already are doing good work with dairy farmers.

## Farm Calendar

Saturday, April 24

7 a.m. - 2 p.m. — 4-H Flapjack Day, Farm and Home Center

8 a.m. — 54th Little International Livestock Exposition, University Ice Pavilion

9:30 a.m. — Tri-County Relief Sale, Morgantown

1:45 p.m. — Youth Committee of Fulton Grange hike

Tuesday, April 27

11:45 a.m. - 3 p.m. — Women's Committee of the Lancaster Farmers Association Ladies' Day Out, Farm and Home Center

7:30 p.m. — Area FFA Parliamentary Procedure, Public Speaking contests, Solanco High School

7:30 p.m. — Ephrata Young Farmers Recreation night, Ephrata Recreation Lanes

Thursday, April 29

7:30 p.m. — Lancaster County Swire Producers Association board of directors meeting, Farm and Home Center

FFA Ornamental Horticulture Contest, Mount Joy

Saturday, May 1

Lancaster Pony Club Horse Show, John Gibson farm, Drumore

## 4-H Calendar

Saturday, April 24

7 a.m. - 2 p.m. — Flapjack Day, Farm and Home Center

Monday, April 26

7:30 p.m. — Conestoga Valley Junior and Senior 4-H Club reorganization meeting, Witmer Fire Hall

8 p.m. — 4-H Dairy Club Leaders meeting, conference room, Farm and Home Center

Tuesday, April 27

1 p.m. — Variety Pack discussion on 4-H projects, Farm and Home Center

Wednesday, April 28

1 p.m. — Food Projects and Judging of Foods, Farm and Home Center

7:30 p.m. — 4-H Wildlife Club reorganization meeting, Farm and Home Center. New members welcome

Thursday, April 29

7:30 p.m. — Kirkwood 4-H Community Club reorganizational meeting, Union Presbyterian Church south of Kirkwood

Lancaster County 4-H Holstein Dairy Club meeting.