

Guernsey Breeders Annual Tour

Thirty-seven persons representing the Lancaster County Guernsey Breeders Association traveled to the Hanover-Chambersburg-Mercersburg area last week for its annual tour.

The first stop on the tour was at Hanover Shoe Farms, Hanover, home of world famous trotting horses. There are over 3,000 head of horses housed at the farm.

Of particular interest to the women in the group was a stop at the Pet Pie Plant at Chambersburg. The frozen guernsey division where pies are made was observed, making the few pies made at home look like child's play.

Specifically touring farm operations, the environmental calf barn at the Lester Peckman farm at Chambersburg was of particular interest to Lancaster County calf raisers.

One year ago, Peckman converted a chicken house into an environmental calf barn. The barn has exhaust fans installed as well as electric heat for the extremely cold conditions which arise on occasion. All calves are housed individually.

The calves are put into the environmental calf barn at birth and are kept in this environment for a period of one month. The calves are fed colostrum (from frozen colostrum) for the period in which they are housed in the controlled environment.

Shavings are used for bedding. The pens are cleaned out only after the calves are moved to another location, then the pens are thoroughly disinfected.

Another feature installed in the new set-up is gates which can be locked behind each calf at feeding time, thus making giving of medications a possibility from the walkway.

Peckman reports that in the year the new system has been

installed, he has had no calf losses.

The Peckman operation, father and three sons, milks 150 head of Guernseys. The cattle are kept in loose housing with straw and sawdust used for bedding.

At the William Stuff farm, a high moisture corn feeding system was observed. Stuff uses a loose housing system, milking in a conventional barn. Stuff has several Champion and Darimost daughters in his herd.

A new Surge double-six Herringbone system at the farm of Marvin Hussong in the Mercersburg area was viewed. A commercial set-up, the Hussong's, father and four sons, are presently milking 160 head. Hussong stated that in order for the system to pay, they need to expand to 300 head of cattle, which the new system will allow them to handle. Hussong's raise no cattle as replacements.

The cows are washed as they come into the parlor. The cattle get no feed in the parlor. With the new milkers, which are designed to be used automatically or manually, the cups fall off when the quarter is milked out.

At the Seth Schnebly farm, outstanding Lyrene May Rose Prince daughters were shown. The 40-head herd produced over 12,000 pounds of milk and 585 pounds of milk.

Serving on the tour committee was Ralph Bitler, chairman, Robert Breneman, and Elam Mull.

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When storing dairy sour cream, turn the carton upside down in the refrigerator to prevent air from entering the carton. Sour cream will last flavorfully for four to five days when stored in this manner.

Twin Valley FFA Students Compete in Public Speaking Contest

At the Berks County FFA public speaking contest which was held last week, Nevin Mast, vice president of the Twin Valley FFA Chapter, placed second for his speech "Soybeans — Miracle Crop to Feed a Hungry World."

The contest was held at Conrad Weiser High School. Mast is now eligible to participate in the area contest with speakers from

Lebanon and Schuylkill Counties. If he wins in the area contest, he then will be eligible to participate in the Eastern Regional contest and in the State FFA contest at Penn State in June.

Terry Murray, Twin Valley chaplain, earned fourth place with his speech "Management of the Dairy Hefier."

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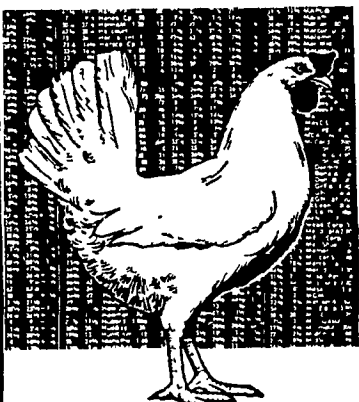


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