

# Lancaster Farming

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Clarence Stauffer, left, discusses heifer management with Elam Bollinger, a dairy farmer from Manheim. Stauffer is this area's GEM (Genetic Evaluation and Management) consultant. GEM is a program administered by the Holstein-Friesian Association of America.

## GEM Helps Solve Breeding Problems

By Jim Leuenberger  
Director of Information  
Holstein-Friesian  
Association of America

"I just don't take enough time on picking breeding bulls for my cows. I could if I took the time. I use the Sire Summaries from HFAA, but it takes a long time to sort through all the bulls. So I called our GEM consultant shortly after I heard about the GEM service and had him evaluate my herd and help me select service sires."

These were comments made recently by dairyman Elam Bollinger of Manheim, an early participant in GEM - Genetic Evaluation and Management - service of Holstein-Friesian Services, Inc.

"The money I spent for GEM was one of the best investments I

ever made!" So said Alden Ballard, Holstein dairyman from Vermont who also enrolled his herd in the GEM Service.

These comments are just a few of many like them that have been made by satisfied Holstein dairymen who have had their herds evaluated by a GEM Service Consultant.

Although only being offered in limited areas of the country at the present time, plans are to eventually have GEM consultants available throughout the country. Pennsylvania dairymen currently serving as consultants are: Clarence Stauffer, Ephrata; George Bridenbaugh, Martinsburg; Dean Hearn, Warren; C. Wesley Baxter, Fredonia, and Albert Smith, Springville.

The need for such a service has

## Promotion Plan Gets DHIA Ok

The board of directors of the Red Rose DHIA voted Monday evening at their regular quarterly meeting to adopt a promotional program that has been initiated by the state DHIA organization.

According to assistant county agent Alan Bair, the program was adopted so that dairymen who aren't using DHIA can become familiar with it. He said about a third of the counties in the state had adopted the promotion.

Under the program, new herds going on test between now and January 1, 1973, will receive one month's free test. All herds begun under the program will be started as a twice-a-day DHI herd. These herds can be converted to any currently available testing

program the second month on test.

Only herds that have not previously been on test are eligible for the program.

The directors felt that production testing is such an important part of herd management that all dairymen should be encouraged to test. Anyone interested in the program is invited to contact the DHIA supervisor or director in his area, or the agricultural extension office in the Farm and Home Center.

It was also announced that the annual DHIA meeting will be held January 16, 1973, at the Farm and Home Center. Harold Stebbins will be the guest speaker.

## Testing Milk for Protein - Researcher Tells Why

Testing milk for protein is a subject that's getting more and more attention lately, and rightly so, according to Herbert C. Gilmore, head of Penn State's milk testing program.

"There's a very real possibility that federal legislation may some day require a listing of all components on every package of food sold. That includes listing protein content on milk cartons," Gilmore told LANCASTER FARMING.

One of Gilmore's respon-

sibilities is overseeing the nation's first milk testing program with a sophisticated piece of machinery that automatically analyzes protein as well as fat content of milk samples.

"We got the machine just this past July," Gilmore says, "and we started testing in September. Right now we're analyzing protein content in about 9000 milk samples a month."

"About 8000 of those samples are ones we've chosen as part of our testing program. The other 1000 or so are being tested for dairymen around the state who've requested the service. The test for butterfat costs 10-cents per sample. The additional test for protein costs another 5-cents, or a total of 15-cents for each sample."

Gilmore pointed out that the

program is still in its infancy, and protein tests cannot presently be carried out on the same scale as they are for butterfat. If demand for the program should increase, however, Gilmore said the service would be made available.

"The combination automatic tester is the real key to this program," he pointed out. "It used to take several days to get a readout on a protein analysis. With this machine, we can handle close to 200 samples an hour."

Before the start of the program, Gilmore and his colleagues expected that protein content in milk from individual cows would generally be about equal to or lower than the butterfat content. On the whole, the testing program bears out these expectations.

"But there are exceptions,"

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## Farm Calendar

Monday, November 27

7:30 p.m. - Octoraro Young Farmer meeting, vo-ag department, Octoraro High School.

DHIA Quarterly Directors meeting, Farm and Home Center.

Buck Season Opens

Tuesday, November 28

9:30 a.m. - Chester County Extension sewing course, Men's Knit Jackets, St. James Episcopal Church, Downingtown.

7:30 p.m. - Ephrata Young Farmers Beef Herd Management course, "Marketing Finished Cattle", vo-ag department, Ephrata High School.

Garden Spot Young Farmers meeting, vo-ag department, Garden Spot High School.

Thursday, November 30  
7:30 p.m. - Red Rose FFA meeting, Garden Spot High School.

## Mt. Joy Rotary Buy 70 Capons

Members of the Mt. Joy Rotary Club sponsored a 4-H dressed capon exhibit at Hostetters Banquet Hall in Mt. Joy on Tuesday. The members bought all ten capons entered in the exhibit, the two turkeys shown, plus an additional 60 capons from the 4-H'ers.

James Sauder of Mt. Joy exhibited the grand champion capon. Reserve champion honors went to Pam Wivell of Columbia. The other three exhibitors placing in the top five were Beverly Garber, Philip Garber and Julie Garber, all from Mt. Joy.

Kevin Ulrich, Ephrata, showed the grand champion turkey while his brother, Ricky, took the reserve prize.

Kermit Birth, extension poultry specialist from Penn State, was the judge for the exhibit as well as the luncheon speaker.

In charge of the capon project was Roy Sauder, 4-H club leader from Mt. Joy.

## Farmers Almanac Debuts Today

Almost everyone believes in, or at least enjoys, the Old Farmer's Almanac. That's why, starting today and continuing each week, you'll be able to read the Almanac's weather predictions for the following week in LANCASTER FARMING.

Those predictions, made many months in advance, aren't something to chuckle over. As a matter of fact, the Old Farmer's Almanac has batted 80 per cent correct, higher than the official U.S. weather reports.

The folksy predictions are so

good that their publisher, C. Robertson Trowbridge, admits "there's a little witchcraft in them."

The amazingly accurate forecasts are based on study of such things as sun spot cycles and weather data spanning 180 years.

Besides the weather predictions the new almanac feature will include some folksy and homey information, along with some fairly corny gags.

Watch for it each Saturday on the Poultry Market page.



James Sauder, left, won grand champion honors at the Elizabethtown-Donnegal Area 4-H Dressed Capon Exhibit held this week at Mt. Joy. Pam Wivell, center, had the reserve champion. Penn State poultry specialist Kermit Birth, right, was the judge for the event.