FFA Project Book Winners Announced

Chapter of the Future Farmers of America entered 25 blue ribbon books in the State Project Book Contest held in Harrisburg. Records of projects from all over the state of Pennsylvania are judged at the contest for their effeciency, accuracy and neatness.

Gold medals received by Howard Stoltzfus, farming program (5 enterprises - beef herd, hay, field corn, wheat, barley), Shane Clark, working for experience, and Bill experience, Swienhart, sweet corn.

Silver medals were received by: Roland Kolb, truck crops, Eugene Kulp, farming program (3 enterprises - Dairy cows, dairy

The Owen J. Roberts heifers, alfalfa hay) Tom Lowrer, farming program (3 enterprises - dairy cows, dairy heifers, field corn), Dave Nolan, dairy heifers, Owen J. Roberts Scrapbook, Darrel Stoltzfus, beef herd, John Swartzentruber, sweet corn and working for experience, and Steve Ussler. working for experience.

Bronze medal winners were Roy Fizz, working for experience, Ruth Friedhofer, farming program (2 enterprises -Laying hens, pullets), and Ed Mast, dairy heifers and field corn.

Howard Stoltzfus also won the Production Credit Award for the Norristown Area for the accuracy of his farming record.

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Economics of Dairy Production Testing

by N. Alan Bair Assistant County Agent Lancaster County

Membership in our local DHIA production testing program is constantly changing. Dairymen's names are added to, and others dropped, from the list of those on test. An alarming number drop out, giving as an excuse that they cannot "afford" the dollar cost of the program.

Management

A profitable dairy, in these times of price-cost squeeze, can't operate on short-tem planning. In the dairy business it's the annual production and year after year high production that really pays the bills and returns more net profit. Knowing the average production per cow based on total herd production as determined from your milk check does no real good; because 10 percent of the animals in a herd may be 'free riders" that could be removed. This culling would increase net profit while certainly cutting feed and labor

Why is the production of all cows in Pennsylvania only 9,058 pounds of milk while the average of cows on DHIA testing is 12,965 pounds of milk? This extra increase of 3,907 pounds at \$8 per hundredweight amounts to a return of \$312 more per cow. The simple answer seems to be that those dairymen with good DHIA records use them for a better feeding, breeding, culling and management program. Of course this results in more net income.

Promotion and Sales

The auction ring is a pretty reliable barometer of the dollar value dairymen are willing to pay for replacement animals.

There is, of course, that occasional sensational animal that brings a record price, but they are few. While they help the average of a single sale they do not greatly affect the overall average of a year's business.

Recently, we had occasion to analyze the auction sale figures for more than 29,000 animals in the Ayrshire, Guernsey. Hoistein and Jersey breeds. The dollar value exceeded \$21 million for an average of \$745 per head.

It is interesting to note the value buyers place on DHIA

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Little is a member of Dale Carnegie Sales Executive Club and has been associated ten years with the egg industry Plain and Fancy Egg Ranch, Inc. serves over seven hundred super markets, dairies, distributors, hospitals, restaurants. and institutional trade in a sevenstate area.





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production records when bidding at sales. Although we do not have complete data for all breeds, the date for Guernsevs and Holsteins appear to set the pattern.

Buyers of Guernseys and Holsteins paid an average of \$978 for cows with records. Cows with no record but from tested dams average only \$590.

Cows with records brought \$182 more than cows with no records but from tested dams and \$388 more than cows with no records and out of untested dams.

The cost of testing a herd of 50 cows in DHIA is about 8 dollars per cow per year. Take the time to add up 3907 pounds of milk at a value of

\$312 and \$388 increase sale value to see what you get for your \$8 investment.

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