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Ag Official Sounds Off on Dairy Health

The Great Milk Mystery (or Who's Responsible for What) was still something of a mystery when Mrs. Jane Alexander ended her speech to a crowd of farmers on Tuesday at Lancaster County Dairy Day. The title of her speech, she noted, had been chosen more by whimsey than logic, but she did have something to say about milk. And when she sat down, there was no doubt in anyone's mind that Mrs. Alexander was very much concerned about the dairy health situation in the county.

Mrs. Alexander is a York County attorney and a former member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, currently serving as Pennsylvania's deputy secretary of agriculture. She was the leadoff speaker for the afternoon portion of the dairy day program. "The Department of Agriculture's animal indemnity funds are going to be wiped out for the remainder of the year because we have to depopulate several large Pennsylvania herds," Mrs. Alexander told the group.

"That money goes pretty fast when you have to put down 180 cows in one herd alone," she said. "Because of problems like this, we in the Department of Agriculture have decided - and it was a tough decision to make - that we're not going to depopulate herds animal by animal in heavily infected areas. We're going to come in and clear out the whole herd, and we're going to keep animals off the farm for a year. We're also considering some new regulations. One that we'll probably adopt is to not allow indemnity for farmers who've added cows

to their herds after they've been notified that they're in trouble."

Some of the problem herds, Mrs. Alexander said, are in Lancaster County.

In her speech, Mrs. Alexander also said the ag department is considering another hearing on the seven-day milk dating rule. This is the rule that says milk must be removed from food store shelves after seven days. The law also requires that the date of removal be stamped on individual milk containers. "Since we've started the seven-day rule, we've had far fewer complaints about milk quality," Mrs.

Alexander said. "We've found that retailers are taking better care of milk and consumers are more often getting a top quality product. But let's face it. Milk lasts longer than seven days, and why should we mandate the destruction of good product? Especially when food is short. We've whipped some of the problems, so we'll be considering an increase in the seven-day rule."

Mrs. Alexander also touched on sanitation on the dairy farm. "We urge our milk inspectors to work with farmers in solving their problems. Usually, when w

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Marcia Rohrer

Mt. Joy 4-H Teen Leader

by: Melissa Piper

During the 4-H season, it may be hard to find Marcia Rohrer, a Manheim R2 miss, for activities keep her busy all the time.

If she's not at the barn walking her steer or conditioning her sheep, a search may find her in the kitchen whipping up a batch of icing for her next cake decorating fete or sewing the finishing touches on a new dress. And if all else fails, you'll probably find her working as a teen leader in the Mt. Joy Community 4-H Club.

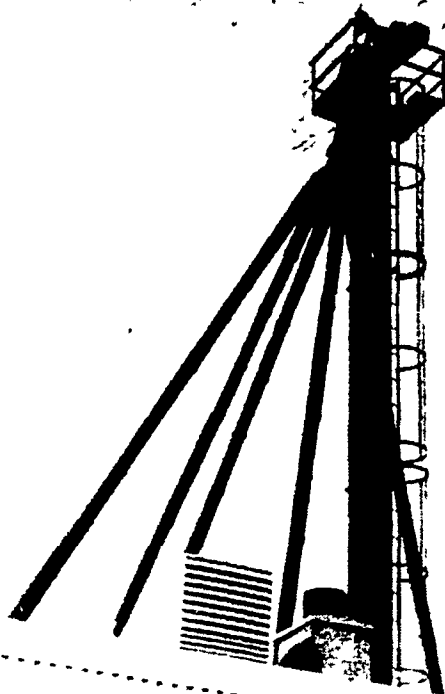
Marcia, who is the daughter of Mr and Mrs Jay Rohrer, is a sophomore at Manheim Central High School and has been a active Lancaster County 4-H member for the past four years.

A member of the Red Rose Baby Beef and Lamb club Marcia has taken several steer projects and has also raised market lambs. Marcia has shown her steers and lambs at the Manheim Farm Fair and the Farris Show.

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Marcia Rohrer, Manheim R2, has been involved with many 4-H activities. One project that she especially enjoys is cake decorating.



A group of Filipino 4-H'ers viewed the manure drying facility at Pennfield Corp.'s egg production operation near Ephrata. The Filipinos are all in

this country to take part in a two-year program of training and work experience.

Philippine 4-H'ers Tour Farms Here

A group of 20 Philippine 4-H'ers spent four days in Lancaster County this week touring farms and agribusiness concerns as part of a two-year agricultural training program organized by the National 4-H Foundation in Washington.

The Philippine Agricultural Training Program was created in May of last year as part of a long-term Philippine government program to increase food production in that country. The coordinator for the program is John Pederson, of the National 4-H Foundation. Pederson, who accompanies the group on field trips, told Lancaster Farming on Monday, "This program is similar to others which bring in 4-H'ers from Korea, the Republic of China and Turkey. Everyone of the kids who comes here has a farm background. And when they go back home, most of them go into farming."

The Filipinos, when they get home, will be able to

obtain \$19,000 loans to begin a farm enterprise. "That won't buy any land," Pederson noted, "because in the Philippines even sloping land brings \$1500 an acre. But the loans will get these young farmers off to a good start with equipment and supplies. They will probably buy land cooperatively."

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Egg Producers Criticize Urner-Barry Quotations

A largely hostile group of eggmen queried John Carter and Frank Urner on Thursday night about the egg price which is published daily by New York's Urner-Barry Corp. This egg price, which goes by subscription to egg brokers, packers, producers and chain store buyers, is the benchmark which guides price setting in much of the nation's egg market. In addition to their regular subscribers, Carter pointed out, there are also

two newspapers in the U.S. which carry the Urner-Barry egg price. Lancaster Farming is one of those.

"Why don't you set your price so it shows what the egg producer is really getting?" one poultryman asked. "I never get anywhere near the price you quote. Why is that?"

Ordinarily, the price to producers is set by buyers at a figure such as 12- to 14-cents "under the market", or the Urner-Barry quote.

Store door delivered eggs may be priced at or just under the market. This pricing mechanism is used almost universally in the East and quite extensively east of the Rockies. West Coast eggs are commonly quoted on the basis of a USDA store door delivery price.

Carter explained to the questioner that the Urner-Barry price was a base quotation meant to be used

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