

PennAg cosponsors dairy seminars

EPHRATA - Pennsylvania dairymen are losing money to subclinical mastitis and inefficient feeding practices, according to Dr. Richard S. Adams, extension dairy specialist at Penn State. Adams and Dr. Larry Hutchinson, Penn State's newly appointed extension veterinarian, recently conducted a series of six regional dairy seminars to drive these and other facts home to dairy servicemen.

The one-day seminars were held throughout the state and were well attended, according to Adams. "In all, we had about 350 people at the meetings," he said. "We had a lot of business people, veterinarians, farm lenders, vo-ag teachers, extension people, and other groups. The seminars weren't designed so much for farmers as they were for the people who serve farmers."

Support for developing traveling funds is being solicited, Smith indicated. Team members are: Kenneth Brubaker, 2418 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster; Kevin Rohrer, Manheim R7; Robert Hess, Lancaster R2; and Anthony Eberly, Denver R2.

Hardy Seed Co. in Camp Hill, laid the initial groundwork for the seminars. The committee also suggested much of the program content, and the PennAg staff arranged for the facilities.

Adams said the meetings were well-received, and that there will probably be similar meetings either annually or every other year. Future seminars might focus on milking systems, housing, and farm business management.

The emphasis this time was on cow nutrition and health. Hutchinson told each of the groups that Pennsylvania dairymen are losing anywhere from 10 to 15 percent of their potential income every year to subclinical mastitis, the kind that doesn't show up in simple barn tests. He stressed the need for good milking procedures, sanitation, diet, and frequent testing for mastitis-causing organisms.

Another point brought out in the seminars was the advantage of free choice feeding of a complete ration. Adams said if a cow is offered a balanced ration, she will eat until she's had enough to fill her energy needs, then she'll stop



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LANCASTER - Due to its first-place performance at the state contest held earlier this summer at University Park, the Lancaster County 4-H Livestock Judging Team is now the Pennsylvania Livestock Judging Team, says Max Smith, Lancaster

County agent and coach of the team. In weeks to come the team will be competing at the State Fair of Virginia, Richmond (Sep. 25); Eastern National Show, Timonium, Md., (Oct. 30); Keystone International Exposition, Harrisburg,

(Nov. 10); and the National Judging Contest, Louisville, Ky., (Nov. 20).

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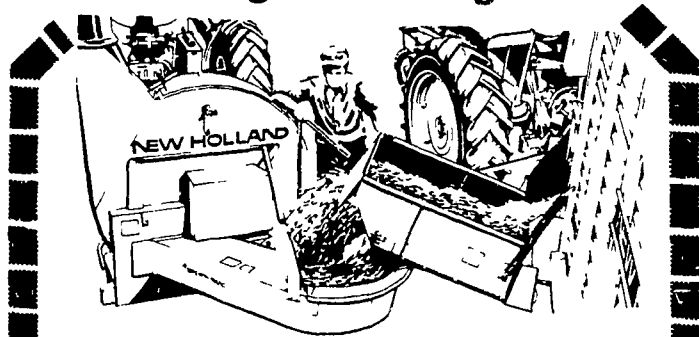
Team members are: Kenneth Brubaker, 2418 Harrisburg Pike, Lancaster; Kevin Rohrer, Manheim R7; Robert Hess, Lancaster R2; and Anthony Eberly, Denver R2.

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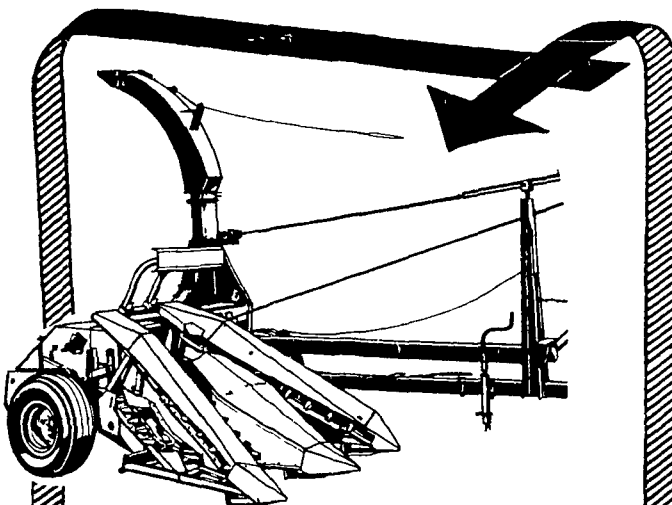
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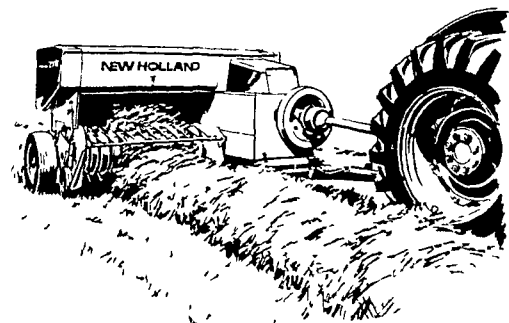
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