

Del. Dairy Goat Assn. planning meeting set

NEWARK, Del. - You'd probably never realize it from a casual drive through the Delaware countryside with its acres and acres of corn and soybeans and its cumulative miles of broiler houses, but dairying is one of the state's most important agricultural industries. In fact, the production of milk and milk products ranked fourth in cash farm income for Delaware in 1976 (the latest year for which figures are available), bringing in well over 13 million dollars.

By milk, of course, we mean cow's milk - produced mostly by big, dewey-eyed, high-yielding black and white Holsteins, plus some Ayrshires, Jerseys, and Guernseys.

Now, however, there's a movement afoot to add a little diversity to this dairy picture, with the establishment of a Delaware Dairy Goat Association. The planning meeting for the proposed organization has been set for Thursday,

November 2, at 7 p.m. at the Department of Agriculture Building in Dover.

Why the interest in goats? Well, explains University of Delaware Extension dairy specialist Dr. George Haenlein, a number of people are interested in raising them for their own use and also possibly to share milk with a few neighbors. Forming an association would give these folks several advantages.

For one thing, it can provide them with an opportunity to exchange information on dairy goat management. It can help them with breeding and selection of stock, and provide for maintenance of a buck for breeding purposes. And it can help with the registration of animals.

A state dairy goat organization can also provide goat owners with a common voice to further their interests on such issues as modifying present state milk sale laws to permit jug

sales of goat's milk. This way the surplus production of that family nanny could be sold to a couple of neighbors.

Another benefit of such an organization would be membership in the state Dairy Herd Improvement Association which provides the milk testing service for local dairymen. You need this service if you want official lactation records on your animals. Such records are of great advantage to people who want to make their goats pay for their keep through purebred sales and auctions.

Finally, there is the opportunity for the local group

to affiliate with the National Dairy Goat Association and take advantage of its benefits.

Should all the producers of cow's milk in Delaware begin worrying about a sudden take-over by dairy goats? Not a bit, says Haenlein. Anything that develops will be much less commercial. He and the county Extension agents who are helping bring goat owners and would-be owners together see this as a much more likely enterprise for small landholders interested in a cheaper and better food supply for their families, or for people with special health needs like ulcers or

allergies who can't drink cow's milk. There might even be a few folks who are just interested in having a

friendly goat to keep the grass down - and provide a little nourishing milk on the side.



All one needs is one friendly doe to provide his family with a gallon of milk a day. Goat enthusiasts say plans are under way now to form a Delaware Dairy Goat Association.

Ann Murren

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the school's music activities, serves as student council president and is a public speaking and drama enthusiast.

The joint-county con-

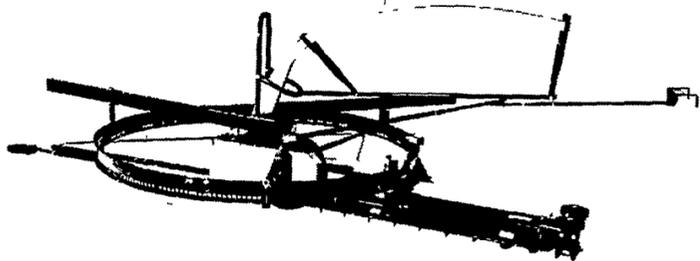
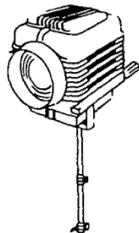
ference is an annual event designed to help develop necessary leadership skills of chapter officers.

Barbara Snyder, York County FFA president, chaired the conference, which featured officer seminars and topical group meeting.

Open activity of the afternoon meeting was the FFA quiz contest, with six contestants fielding questions based on the organizations handbooks and recent publications. Winner of the quiz competition was Jeff Grove, representing the host Red Lion chapter.

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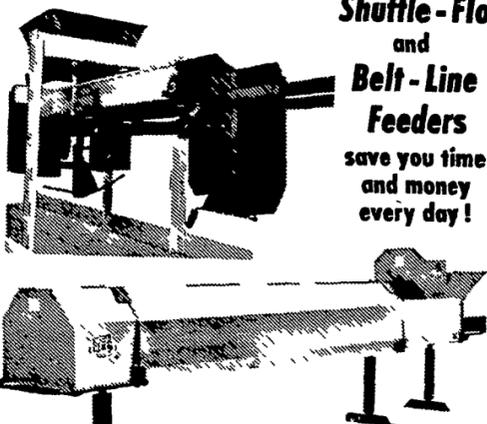


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