

Four Lebanon dairy herds top 700 lbs. butterfat

By DIETER KRIEG SCHAEFFERSTOWN — Four Lebanon County dairy operations completed their DHIA year with butterfat averages exceeding 700 pounds per cow, it was revealed Monday night during the annual DHIA banquet. The four are Harold and Donald Bollinger of Willow Maple Farm, Newmanstown R1; Bennetch Brothers, Myerstown R2; Arnold Acres, Lebanon R2; and Marvin Meyer, Annville R2.

Topping the list for the second year in a row was the Bollinger family, whose 44 registered Holsteins averaged 21,619 pounds of milk and 743 pounds of butterfat. Their herd consisted of 18 per cent first calf heifers, with none of the animals being purchased.

Bennetch Brothers trailed in second place with an average of 18,948 pounds of milk and 723 pounds of butterfat on 72 registered and grade Holsteins. Arnold Acres placed third with 73 registered Holsteins averaging 18,595 pounds of milk and 714 pounds of butterfat. A herd average of 18,451 and 701 pounds for milk and butterfat, respectively, gave Marvin Meyer the fourth and last spot in the "700 club."

According to Lebanon County Agent Newton Bair, who presented each of the four top dairymen with special recognition, some real progress has been made in the County's dairy production. The recently completed DHIA year marked the first time ever that Lebanon County's DHIA average exceeded 15,000 pounds of milk. It now stands at 15,286, compared with 14,882 a year ago. The state average is pegged at 14,475. The County's butterfat poundage moved up from 566 last year to 570 pounds this year. The butterfat test, however, dropped from 3.8 to 3.7 per cent.

"We are not trying to flood the country with milk," Bair explained while citing the production statistics for high producing herds and the county as a whole. Rather, he said, dairymen are trying to become more efficient, and the higher records are a reflection of the breeding, feeding, and management

improvements that have been made.

The county agent also noted that there is a distinct

correlation between high production and low somatic cell counts. Twenty-four Lebanon County dairy herds

are presently included in Penn State's somatic cell testing program, he said. (Turn to Page 109)



Honored for high herd averages at the Lebanon County DHIA banquet on Monday were Donald and Harold Bollinger, seated; Marlin Bennetch; Marvin Meyer, represented by Clyde Meyer, center; and Arnold Acres, represented by Mike Arnold, right.



Newton Bair, Lebanon County agricultural agent, took note that Lebanon County's DHIA herd average eclipsed 15,000 pounds for the first time this year.

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