

Lancaster sets March 4 as county dairy day

LANCASTER — Lancaster County Dairy Day is scheduled for Tuesday, March 4, at the Farm and Home Center.

Featured at the meeting will be a farmer panel to discuss "Getting a Grip on Mastitis."

Panel will include Don Ranck, Paradise, who will talk about staph and strep infection; David Windle, Cochranville, on coliform infection; Jay Frey, Washington Boro, on mycoplasma infections; and Penn State Veterinarian Lawrence Hutchinson.

Panel moderator will be Penn State Dairy Specialist Stephen Spencer.

The Dairy Day is scheduled to begin with coffee and donuts at 9 a.m.

A demonstration on screen testing milk to detect antibiotics will give farmers a handle on discovering problems before they become major troubles.

Farmers will be able to prevent bulk tank contamination and may save a load of milk with this method which can be used right on the farm.

A movie on nutrient management for water

quality also will be part of the program, according to County Dairy Specialist Glen Shirk.

The film concerns water and waste material handling around the farm to prevent pollution.

Shirk noted that pollution is a growing concern with increased fertilizer usage and manure spreading on local limestone soils. He said the problem could hit both family members and livestock.

Farmers will have a chance to have their restricted pesticide applicators private license renewed at the Dairy Day meeting.

David Thompson, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's pesticide coordinator, will talk on recertification.

Farmers should bring their original certificate with them to the Dairy Day meeting so they know their applicator's number.

Those who attend the session can have their license updated.

Garden Spot Vo-Ag teacher Donald Robinson will talk on managing alfalfa for yield and quality.

Stephen Spencer will take the stand again in the afternoon to inform farmers about stray voltage on dairy farms.

A tricky problem which can occur even on Amish farms where there is no electricity, stray voltage can cause herd health problems and have an effect on milk letdown.

Spencer also will talk about heat reclaimers.

Dr. Hutchinson will give a short presentation on raising healthy calves and heifers. Rounding out the program will be Penn State's new dairy specialist, Michael O'Conner.

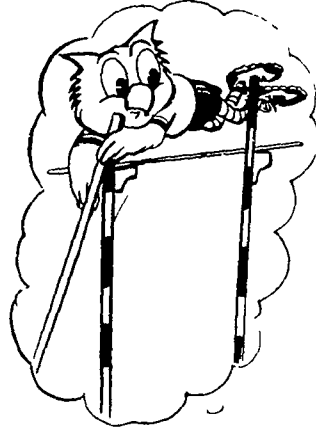
O'Conner will talk on prostaglandin, a new and recently approved breeding tool which is useful for synchronizing heat in dairy heifers to aid artificial insemination.

It is not approved for lactating dairy cows.

Lunch for the Dairy Day will be available at the Farm and Home Center.

Also on the dairy datebook is a manure management session slated for March 17. A farm tour on March 19 and

20 to several manure management systems will follow the inside session.



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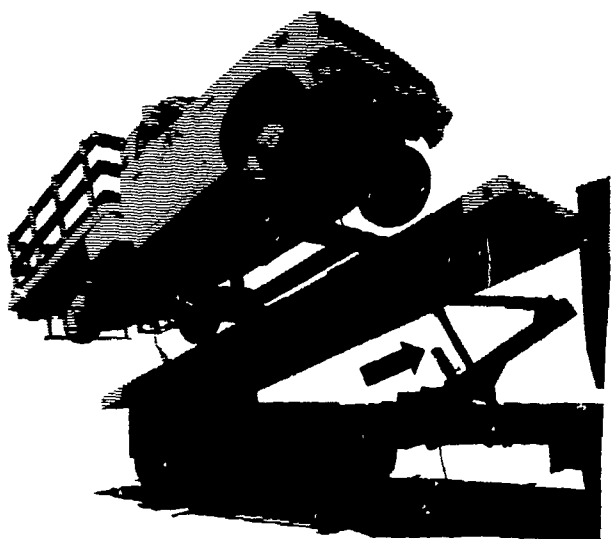
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