

County Guernsey breeders hold annual spring tour

LANCASTER — The Lancaster County Guernsey Breeders annual spring tour was held last Monday. Breeders visited a processing facility, dairy farms, and a shoe factory.

The group saw the newest and most modern milk processing plant in the east, the Mt. Holly Milk Cooperative Plant. It was processing whole milk powder, nonfat dry milk, and

buttermilk powder very smoothly.

The 30 Guernsey breeders could witness a continuous flow of butter, coming out of two machines at the rate of 8000 pounds per hour. This butter was then swiftly packaged into 68 lbs. containers.

This plant will play a very important role in the coming milk flush month, because the perishable milk

will be dried and can later be used for chocolate, such as M&Ms, cakes, pies, shortening, and other products.

Guernsey breeders then saw the dairy of the Lester VanArsdale family in Biglerville. Close to 200 Guernseys are kept in an enclosed loose housing system. A herringbone milking parlor with automatic takeoff milkers works very well here. One is impressed with the

cleanliness of the milk area and the lack of any strong smells in the area.

All the manure from the loose housing area is pushed underground and stored in an adjacent building with a wide overhanging roof. No surface water can go into this building and a man could actually walk on the pack. This system seems to be the most efficient for their system.

The washwater and the milkhouse wastes flow into a pond-like lagoon. It takes large equipment to operate this 600 acre dairy in Adams county, but all this is possible through their income from their Guernsey cows.

The emphasis was on the cows at the next stop, Mervin K. Myers and Sons, Piney Lane Farm, Littlestown.

hard and has out over 8000lbs. of butterfat in her lifetime. Many other outstanding cow families enthused the Lancaster County group.

Progress could also be seen on this farm with its new manure storage system and pickett fence. This farm is bordered by housing from nearby Littlestown and the environment has to be carefully observed.

For dairy farmer it is good to see other people working in factories. How are shoes made? Well, Hanover Shoe Factory gave the group a very good inside view. The piece work of the assembling is done in a new facility and there are many single jobs involved in its production. Laborers have to work fast and intensely.

The Guernsey men gave thanks to the generous hostesses and to the committee of Kenneth Garber, Willow Street; and Jesse Balmer, Litz, for arranging an enjoyable tour.

Milk support price increases to \$12.07

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The support price for manufacturing grade milk containing 3.5 percent milkfat will be raised from \$11.22 to \$12.07 per hundredweight on April 1, Secretary of Agriculture Bob

Bergland said Monday.

For milk with a U.S. annual average milkfat content of 3.67 percent, the new support price is equivalent to \$12.36 compared with the present \$11.49.

Current law requires the

milk support prices be adjusted semi-annually to reflect the estimated change in the parity index (index of prices paid by farmers for commodities and service, interest, taxes and wage rates) during the first half of the marketing year.

Bergland announced March 28 that the support price for manufacturing milk would be increased based on data published in the "Agricultural Prices" report.

The parity index on Oct. 1, 1979—the beginning of the marketing year—was 866 (the period 1910 - 1914 equals 100). The index published today is 932, which is 7.6 percent higher than six months ago. Thus, the support price was raised by 7.6 percent, or 85 cents per hundredweight.

The prices at which USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation will offer dairy products for sale for unrestricted use will continue to be 105 percent of the current purchase price for these commodities. However, for September 1980 the sellback prices will

be increased to approximately the projected purchase prices to be in effect after the new support price is announced for the 1980-81 marketing year beginning Oct. 1.

The support for milk is achieved by CCC purchases of butter, cheese and nonfat dry milk at prices calculated to enable manufacturing plants, on the average, to pay producers the support price for their milk.

While these farmers were given a review of the herd which features Sniders Prince Lily (E 90) a two time National Class Leader.

Lily won the Tarbell Trophy in 1978 with her 2-09 fat record of 1203 pounds of fat in 305 days.

The group saw her first embryo transplant, a March heifer calf by Maverick.

Also at the Myers is McDonald's Farm Darimost Linda (E 91) the dame of McDonald's Top Pilot whose current proof is +1173 and +25F. Linda is still working

Hog producers slate special meeting

LANCASTER — Lancaster County will hold a special meeting for all swine feeders and breeders.

The meeting will run this Wednesday evening, April 16, starting at 7:30 p.m. in the basement meeting room of the Farm and Home Center.

County Agent Max Smith said the meeting was to help swine producers, already faced with a tight financial situation, to reduce pig and hog losses and increase margins.

Speakers for the meeting will include a pair of veterinarians, Dr. Neil Becker and Dr. Larry Hutchinson

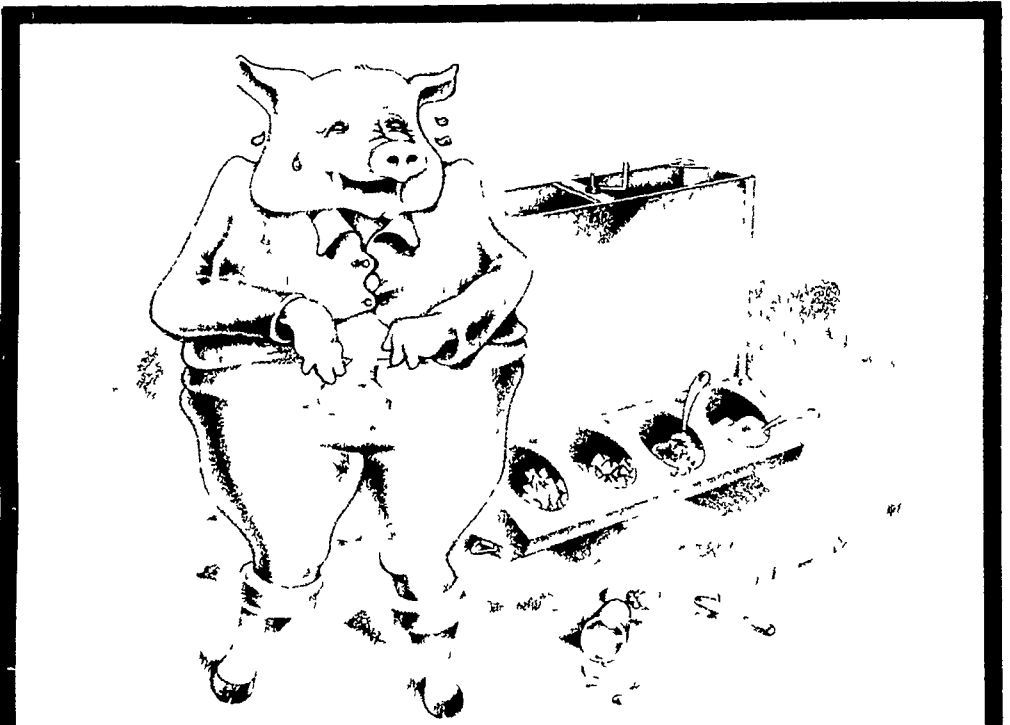
Dr. Becker, from the University of Florida, will discuss health problems of young pigs.

He plans to post an unthrifty feeder pig at the meeting and discuss what he finds on the inside.

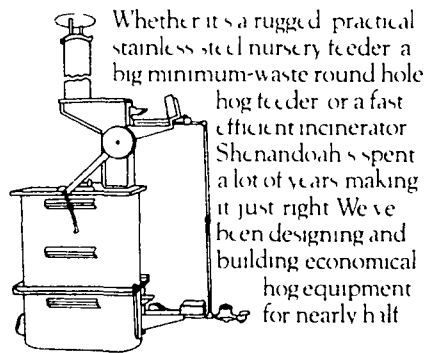
Dr. Hutchinson, a Penn State vet, will discuss Haemophilus pneumonia

This infection is becoming quite serious in the southeastern part of the state, according to Smith, and swine producers need to know more about this threat to the swine industry.

The meeting is free and open to any interested swine producer.



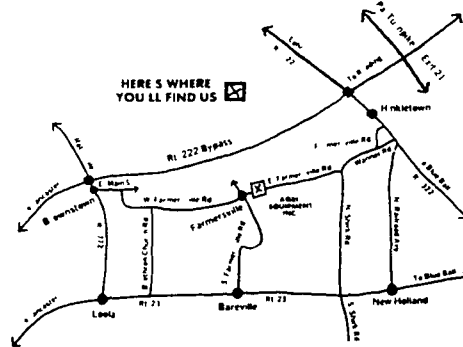
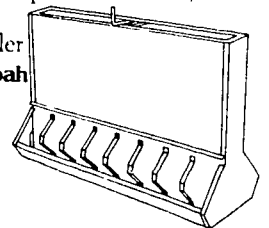
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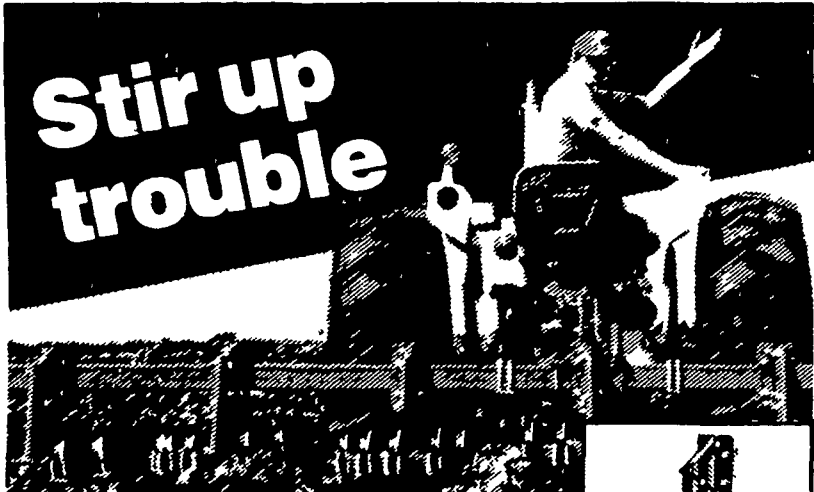
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