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June Is Dairy Month



Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell read the proclamation declaring June Dairy Month while Smithdale Glenda Astronaut looked on approvingly. At her halter is owner Chester Galen

Smith, Shippensburg. The affair marked the beginning of a month-long promotion of the Commonwealth's dairy industry.

BY CURT HARLER

HARRISBURG — June Dairy Month was officially ushered in for Pennsylvanians Monday with the reading of a proclamation by Governor Dick Thornburgh.

On hand to represent the dairy industry was Smithdale Glenda Astronaut who climbed the Capitol steps here in Harrisburg to take the bows for her milk-producing sisters across the Commonwealth. She gave no indication she hadn't been walking steps all of her life.

Glenda, who makes her home in the Shippensburg barn of Chester Galen Smith's Smithdale Farms, conducted herself well on her first visit to the state capitol. The seven year old Holstein was a fine bovine representative.

Classified VG 89, she has top records of 28,900 pounds milk and 1008 butterfat.

Attention of news reporters' clicking Nikons focused on Glenda and State Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell. Hallowell substituted for Governor Thornburgh who was unable to make it down to the Capitol steps for the noon festivities.

State Dairy Princess Eileen Shull was joined by princesses from Lancaster, Dauphin, and Lebanon Counties who distributed crackers and cheese to onlookers. In addition, The Big Cheese and Milton the Milk Carton, two promotional characters, were on hand to support the state's number one farm industry.

Dairying is a billion dollar business in the state, placing Pennsylvania among the top five states in the nation in the number of dairy farms; cows on farms; amount of milk produced, marketed and sold to processing plants; production of milk, milkfat, evaporated, and sweetened and condensed milk; and ice cream.

In his proclamation, Thornburgh said he "urged everyone to observe the month with appropriate activities

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Elect new president, directors

Eastern members OK \$625 assessment

BY SHEILA MILLER
SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Delegates to the Eastern Milk Producers Cooperative annual meeting in Syracuse, N.Y. approved two separate assessments which will cost the average member about \$625.

On Wednesday members also took action on several

resolutions and elected past Co-op Treasurer Stanley Korona of Amsterdam, New York, as their new President.

According to the Co-op, the members approved a \$500 per member flat assessment.

In addition, an accounts receivable assessment of 2.5

cents per hundredweight on all milk produced between April 1, 1978 and March 31, 1979 will be charged against Eastern members.

Eastern said it figures the assessment will cost each member an additional \$125 and should generate the \$500,000 needed to clear up the Co-op's accounts receivable.

The assessment will be taken either as a lump sum or deducted over four month's time. The only members not to be charged are those who joined the Co-op after January 1, 1980. The Board of Directors agreed to review hardship cases.

Retiring President and Direct Arden Tewksbury pointed out that two-thirds of the delegate meeting was spent on the assessment and interest resolutions.

He noted that along with the across-the-board \$500 levy resolution adopted by the Co-op delegates, there were additional resolutions developed by a committee to assess the producers by milk production. These resolutions, he said, were turned down by the majority.

A resolution to drop the interest payments was also voted down, Tewksbury said. Eliminating the in-

terest charge, he pointed out, would have required a sum of \$175,000 to \$200,000 be

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Seven women to vie for dairy princess title

BY SALLY BAIR
Staff Correspondent

LANCASTER — Seven young women are participating in activities which will lead to the crowning of the 1980 Lancaster County Dairy Princess on June 21 in ceremonies at the Farm and Home Center.

All contestants and the reigning Dairy Princess Lucinda Landis, 1805 Colebrook Road, Lancaster, promoted dairy products at the East Towne Mall from Wednesday through Saturday this week and participated in a milking contest at the home of the committee's co-chairmen, Mr. and Mrs. Elvin Brenfeman, Mount Joy R1, Friday afternoon.

The final event of the Dairy Princess promotion will take place on Saturday, June 21 with a reception on

the patio at 6:30, followed by dinner and an evening of entertainment at 7 p.m.

Contestants include:

Belle Balmer, Mount Joy R2, daughter of Mrs. Jane

Balmer. Belle, 18, graduated from Donegal High School and is employed at Hamilton Bank.

A member of the Florin (Turn to Page A24)

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Berks farmer loses 30 cows during storm

BY LAUREL SCHAEFFER
Staff Correspondent

FLEETWOOD — A freak accident during a thunderstorm last Sunday evening caused the death of 30 dairy cattle owned by Luke Kurtz, R1 Fleetwood.

In an unrelated incident, eight cows, including the reserve grand champion at the Pennsylvania Holstein show, were killed on the Eastern farm of Donald Seipt. For details on that incident, see page A 16.

The cattle, which included 24 milking cows and six heifers, were apparently electrocuted when a high voltage power line was brought down by a high gust of wind during the storm.

The wooden pole supporting the power line owned by Metropolitan Edison Company snapped off at the base, causing the catastrophe.

"Everything" was said to light up that evening at (Turn to Page A14)