

Major breeds agree on protein pricing

CAMP HILL — Representatives of all the major dairy breeds, except Ayrshire, were on hand last Monday to toss around the possibility of pricing milk on a protein basis.

The Pennsylvania Holstein Association, National All-Jersey Incorporated, Pennsylvania Jersey Cattle Club, Pennsylvania Guernsey Breeders, the State Dairymen's Association, and dairy and pricing specialists from Penn State attended the meeting hosted by the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association.

Dennis Derr, PFA's commodities director, said the major fact to come out of the meeting is agreement that protein pricing is not a breed issue.

Most of the representatives said they were more concerned about the good of the industry as a whole rather than their own breed.

But, it was noted, after the

initial change-over period, there should not be any major drop in profits under the proposed protein pricing system.

In fact, the move would likely be welcomed by the dairy processors who realize most of their profits from the solids.

The 13 representatives who attended the meeting pointed out any change to protein pricing would not be beneficial until the change was supported by changes in advertising campaigns and national standards for butterfat and solids not fat.

In the long run, the group concluded, a move to protein pricing should improve the industry as a whole.

Present PFA policy recommends promotion of a pricing policy based on solids not fat—protein—and paying the farmer a premium for low bacterial count in the milk.

Caving

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1871 by two Pennsylvania Dutchmen who were quarrying for limestone. According to the cave history, the two discoverers, Gideon Merkel (the farm owner) and John Gehret, crawled just a few feet inside the cave but didn't go any further because they couldn't see.

The two discoverers boasted of their find at the local tavern, and the following day a group of friends and neighbors went to the Merkel farm to take a look at the hole in the hill. This time they were prepared with candles and lanterns.

One of the neighbors was Samuel D. F. Kohler.

Before a year had gone by since the cave was explored by the band of curious farmers, Kohler had purchased the 125 acres of the Merkel farm for the grand price of \$5000. The cave history points out that Kohler's main reason for buying the cave was to preserve its beauty and keep it from being destroyed by vandals and curiosity seekers.

As the popularity and the fame of Crystal Cave began to grow, Kohler received requests from visitors to see his cave. He had built an entrance soon after he bought the property, and by 1873 he began to charge admission for touring the cave.

Over the years, the cave grew into a business. After Kohler's death in 1908, his son, David, took over the operation.

In 1923, when David was 57 years old, he sold the cave to its present owners, Crystal Cave Company, Inc.

Crystal Cave is 1500 feet long. As a visitor walks along the wide paved paths, and climbs up and down the steps that lead to various levels in the cave, they reach a high point of 60 feet from ground level and drop down to the lowest level of 125 feet from ground level.

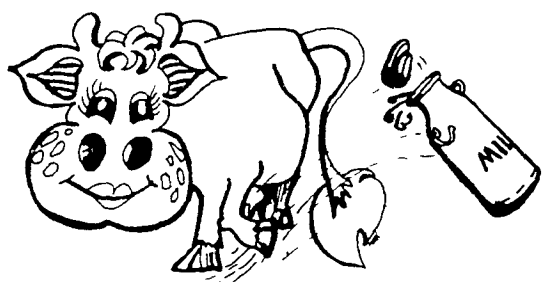
The stairs and hand railings were added to the cave about 1933 to help facilitate the tours. Just recently, in 1974, the cave was reilluminated and all the electrical wiring concealed to add to the beauty of the delicate cave formations.

Crystal Cave is open daily from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., weekends until 7 p.m.

About an hour east of these two Berks County caves is Indian Echo Caverns, near Hummelstown. This vast cave was visited since as early as 1783, and served as the home of a recluse named Amos Wilson, who according to the Indian Echo management, hid inside the cave after his sister's death by hanging in 1785.

Indian Echo Caverns are also open daily during the summer from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

So, take your pick. Enjoy the experience of caving this summer—an inexpensive way to cool off, have fun and learn about nature's underground secrets.



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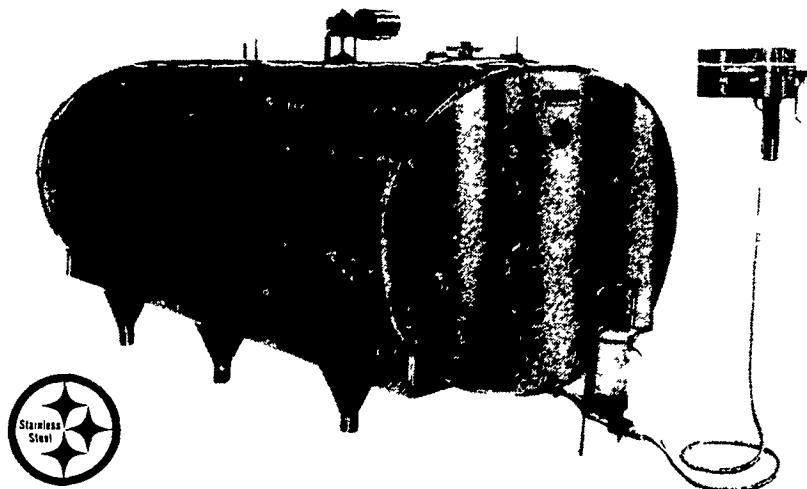
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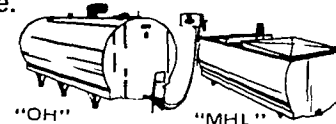
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