

At Holstein Convention

Demand, inflation, energy seen as dairy challenges

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Despite success in meeting the demand for higher-producing, more efficient cows and milk lower in butterfat and higher in milk solids, serious challenges face the dairy industry, Anson R. Bertrand, director of science and education, U.S. Department of Agriculture, said at the annual meeting of the Holstein-Friesian Association of America.

"The most immediate pressure on dairy managers is inflation," Bertrand said. "Inflation puts a very high premium on increased productivity — to keep farmer purchasing power ahead of the dollar's erosion."

In addition, Bertrand said energy costs are pressing the dairy industry. He said it is likely that in the future dairy producers will make greater use of solar energy for drying grains, heating water, cooling milk, and many other energy uses.

"The energy shortage could have a much larger impact on the dairy industry if alcohol technology proves to be cost-effective in comparison with other alternative fuel sources," Bertrand said.

"There is no expectation that alcohol will replace all our petroleum needs — but even supplying 10 percent of our current demand for gasoline with alcohol would make a substantial impact on the availability and price of many products, including dairy feed and transportation."

He said although meeting 10 percent of our gasoline requirements through alcohol will present a demand for a substantial number of acres, alcohol would not be totally a competitor of the dairy industry.

Fermentation produces large amounts of wet stillage — which contain substantial feed value. We may be able to find ways to use fermentation residue effectively in dairy feeds by partial drying with solar energy."

The strongest pressures for change, in the long term,

probably will come from a growing world demand for food, Bertrand said.

"This pressure arises from the fast-growing world population and from rising world demand for animal products. The demand for meat, milk and eggs has already fueled a major expansion in the world's feed grain trade; in particular, it has increased the level of U.S. feed grain exports from 19 million tons 10 years to 71 million tons in the current fiscal year," he said.

The dairy industry and the USDA together already have registered some major successes in solving problems facing dairy farmers, Bertrand said.

The national cooperative dairy herd improvement program, elimination of bovine tuberculosis, and reduction of brucellosis in cattle are just a few examples of progress made, he said.

West Snyder FFA lists winners

UNIVERSITY PARK — The West-Snyder FFA Chapter members won honors during the FFA Activities Week. The convention brought FFA members from all parts of Pennsylvania to compete in agriculture events of their interest.

During the first day of the three day convention, Lisa Shurey participated in the extemporaneous public speaking contest and won a gold medal. During the second day, Larson Herman participated in the wildlife contest and received a third

silver medal. Tim Reich and Ken Klingler took 16th place and honorable mention in the Small Gas Engine Contest and Allen Will played in the State FFA Band.

Contests weren't the only thing to do during the three day Convention. Members participated in a softball tournament. They also had the opportunity to use the tennis courts, and the swimming pool. During the evenings members attended the convention meetings where awards were presented and the new State FFA Officers were installed.

ministration is working in to assist the dairy industry in meeting future challenges," he said.

Extension conducted intensive education efforts to help dairy managers better understand the proper use and withdrawal times for antibiotics. This is an important issue for the dairy industry, and residue monitoring will now be conducted in 48 states," he said.

Bertrand said reseach needed to meet the challenges facing the dairy industry already is underway.

"Increasing the role of forage in dairy cattle nutrition, taking advantage of the genetic potential of animals, increasing reproductive efficiency, reducing losses due to disease, and improving dairy products are a few of the areas the USDA's Science and Education Ad-

ministration is working in to assist the dairy industry in meeting future challenges," he said.

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