

Lancaster Guernsey field day held at Garber farm

Golden cow enthusiasts talk heat and milk

BY PAT KAUFFMAN
WILLOW STREET — An August heat wave dampened the brows but not the spirits of over 150 Guernsey enthusiasts Tuesday as they gathered at the Kenneth Garber farm here for their annual field day.

Judging contests, a farm tour, a barbecued chicken lunch, speakers, dairy queens and a calf drawing were all part of the day's activities.

Guernseys and Garbers have been together since 1913, according to Snavely Garber, herd patriarch. He related memories of making butter in 1927 — 90 pounds per week, which sold for about \$1 a pound. Garber recalled the first field day was held in 1929, about the same time the 4-H club began.

Currently the 194 acre farm is farmed by Kenneth, his son. Both Milie Linde, the 1980 National Guernsey Queen and Connie Balmer, the reigning Lancaster County Dairy Princess were in attendance.

Connie, a Guernsey girl at heart, topped the ladies judging competition.

Gerald Harnish, an 8-year employee at the farm explained that they're feeding the herd at a ratio of 1 pound of ration per 2½ pounds of milk. He said the herd receives ear corn, roasted soybeans, and a 40 percent protein mix in addition to the 6 pounds of alfalfa/orchard grass hay in the summer. Corn silage is fed at the rate of 25 pounds/day in the warm weather.

When pasture is finished, the herd receives the hay at the rate of 9 pounds per day, and 35 pounds of corn silage.

Harnish said dry cows are fed oats/rye hay and about 10 pounds of corn silage. Two weeks before freshening, the cows are started back on grain. In addition, each animal receives a 6cc shot of A, D, & E vitamin mixture 2 weeks before freshening.

Ginger Sechrist from the Guernsey Breeders' Association gave the group food for thought with some statistics on bulls. She said

that of 44 bulls tested on active AI, they averaged an increase of 785 pounds of milk increase and \$92 extra dollars for the farmer, while of 543 bulls in the same study she referred to non-AI, the average was 81 pounds of milk increase and only \$10 extra dollars for the farmer's pocket.

Milie Linde challenged the audience to breed Guernseys with bodies capable of supporting the kind of production the modern breeder is demanding from them. Steve Leiser area manager for Pennfield, spoke on Selenium additives. Leiser tried to relate the tiny figures of parts per million to the group. He said for every \$10,000 of the farmers milk check, 1 part per million would equal 1 cent. He reminded the group that Northeastern soils are deficient in Selenium, and said that in his experience some rather dramatic reductions in twisted stomachs can be achieved by the addition of the mineral. He admonished the farmers that feed companies are hard pressed to make up in feeds the roughage sacrificed with 12 blade haylage choppers. He said the result of destroying the roughage in the haylage can be a rash of twisted stomachs.

Leiser also told the group Selenium works with Vitamin E in aiding the reproductive and digestive tracts. Fewer retained placentas with a resulting ease of 60 day breed backs are a result of supplementing the cows diets with Selenium, he said.

Vitamin E also appears to help the immune response, increasing antibody production, he said.

He warned the group to be cautious of increasing and decreasing the Selenium dosage in animals which obtain their ration through their feed. He told the group that a dry cow would not get enough of the supplement, and a heavy milker may overdo. He said feed companies compensate for this

by formulating two separate rations.

Winners in the dairy judging contest were as follows.

Men's division — 1. Melvin Brenneman, 2. Ken Hanks, 3. David Smith, 4. Peter Witmer, 5. Robert Wagner.

Ladies division — 1

Connie Balmer, 2. Nancy Balmer, 3. Barbara Kreider, 4. Marie Brenneman, 5. Elsie Wolf.

Youth division was dominated by Penn Manor FFA students. The top three winners were all from that chapter. Winners were — 1

Brian Ressler, 2. Karen Long, 3. Mike Nissley, 4. John Rohrer, 5. Robert Kirk.

Scott Brenneman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Brenneman, won a calf. Janice Garber, daughter of the host won a \$25 donation from Farmers First Bank.



Millie Linde, left, the 1980 National Guernsey Queen was on hand Tuesday for the Lancaster Guernsey field day. Connie Balmer, center, the reigning Lancaster County Dairy Princess, topped the ladies' division in the dairy judging competition. Brian Ressler won the youth division judging. Home milking when the picture was taken were Melvin Brenneman, men's division and overall winner, and his son Scott, the recipient of the Guernsey calf.

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