

Lancaster Farming

VOL. 25 No. 45 47

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, September 20, 1980



Doug Hershberger, 17, took the senior division showmanship honors at the Holstein competition Thursday at Solanco with junior division award going to Lorri Rutt, 11, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Rutt.

Solanco Fair opens in sunshine

BY PAT KAUFFMAN
QUARRYVILLE — The Solanco Fair opened Wednesday under sunshine and colored breed dairy and sheep competition kicked off the livestock judging.

The traditional opening parade was held Wednesday evening in warm weather, with swarms of people packing this small town to watch business and youth groups vie for prizes.

Donald Eckman, R1 Peach Bottom, exhibited the Grand Champion Holstein Thursday at the Solanco Fair. The cow, a 5 year old purchased last fall at the Maurice Welk dispersal, was according to the judge not in the bloom of milk, but exhibited body and strength.

This show Eckman said will be the last for the animal until after she freshens, perhaps the Farm Show will be her next outing.

An interesting sidelight is

the cow — Lo Pine Astro Midge, an Astronaut

Eckman said she'll finish her current lactation at over

Gratz Fair, A-24 E-town Fair, A-32

daughter classified excellent — brings to 7 the number of Welk bred or owned animals winning the championship at this fair in the last 8 years, according to Maurice Welk.

20,000 pounds of milk.

Reserve grand champion honors in the open competition went to Bob Wenger, who exhibited his senior reserve champion cow.

Wenger's cow was also named second place in the best udder competition.

In showmanship and fitting competition, Doug Hershberger, 17, took the 13 year and older division blue, with Lorri Rutt, 11, daughter of Kenneth Rutt, Quarryville, taking the 12 and under blue.

Other placings during the
(Turn to Page A12)

Lehigh Valley Co-op asks end to PMMB price fixing

BY VIVIAN PAUL
Staff Correspondent

ALLENTOWN — Lehigh Valley Farms has called for an end to milk price regulations by the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board.

Dairy officials last week suggested that legislation be enacted to eliminate the board's ability to set minimum prices that dealers charge supermarkets and stores charge consumers.

The proposed changes would have no effect on prices paid farmers, Lehigh said.

The statement was part of testimony by Robert P. Barry, president of Atlantic Processing, Inc., which trades under the name, "Lehigh Valley Farms." It was presented at a hearing to set new milk prices for the Philadelphia suburbs.

Lehigh Valley Farm's testimony was made by Harold Masteller, vice president of its dairy division.

Barry called price fixing an "archaic example of accepted government control."

"It gets in the way of free

enterprise, the foundation of the American economic system," he said.

"It's supposed to control the market place, but it doesn't. Let prices seek their own level, with the Milk Marketing Board just making sure that dealers don't sell below their costs."

The primary impact of the proposed change would be among milk dealers themselves.

"Unfortunately," Barry said, "the board now sets minimum prices based on costs of average dealers. This often means inefficient dealers are subsidized by the consumer, while efficient dealers are restricted from being competitive."

One area cited by Barry which deregulation would involve is that of school milk.

"School milk pricing is an outrage," Barry said.

"There is no competitive bidding and prices are much higher than they should be. Some dealers are profiteering and school kids in Pennsylvania are being gouged to the tune of millions of dollars annually."

Earl Fink, executive secretary of the PMMB, disagreed with Barry's assessment of the situation.

"School milk carries a lower price than out-of-school packages," he said.

He added that the dairy
(Turn to Page A37)

Musselman plans to irrigate processing water

Farmers protest waste irrigation

BY SHEILA MILLER
ARENDSVILLE — Farmers and land owners in Franklin Township, Adams County are protesting plans of a large fruit processor to irrigate plant waste water on 120 acres of orchard land located here.

"We're concerned about the potential pollution to our creeks and wells," said Roger Sprague, a dairy farmer who rents land directly downstream from the proposed irrigation site.

Sprague explained how about 70 local people

recently met to protest the plans of Musselman's fruit processing plant, now a division of Pet Milk and Illinois Central Industries.

"I suppose you could say we want to stop the possibility of pollution. If we have to, we'll stop the system until we gain some assurances that there won't be any problems," Sprague remarked.

The dairy farmers and other area land owners are concerned that a problem that is currently affecting the Conewago Creek in

nearby Biglerville will be transferred to Mummansburg Run near Arendtsville, said Sprague.

He explained that Musselman's received word from the state's Department of Environmental Resources that the pollution of Conewago Creek, which runs past their Biglerville plant in Butler Township, must be stopped by August 1, 1981.

To do this, the industry is planning to pump their waste water — water used to wash the raw fruit before it is processed — to their orchard land near Arendtsville. The water will then be spray irrigated on the land.

Local dairy farmers, who's cows and heifers drink from Mummansburg Run, are concerned that once the irrigation begins the water will no longer be fit to drink — a situation that occurred elsewhere in the county.

However, before Musselman can begin this process of disposing of their waste water, they must secure a permit from DER. Their application, which was submitted in August, has not yet been approved.

According to DER's Jim Donato, facilities chief for the Harrisburg Regional Office, the application lacked some needed information.

One vital piece of information that was not submitted by Musselman, he said, was an analysis of the waste water. "It's their responsibility to provide that information — the burden of proof rests with them."

Donato explained his

department has not been testing Musselman's plant water to date. However, they are running their standard tests on a neighboring plant that has been irrigating their waste water for the past 15 years.

"We look at the water's pH, its five-day BOD (oxygen content), and its suspended solids, ammonia and nitrogen levels," Donato said. However, he noted, his agency does not test for

(Turn to Page A18)

In This Issue

SECTION A: Editorials, 10; Eastern-Leprino, 16; Gratz fair, 24; Gratz Holsteins, 28; Suffolk show, 30; E-town fair, 32; Dairymen warned about corn, 36.

SECTION B: York Junior Angus, 2; York DHIA, 4; NEMA meeting, 8; Apple harvest festival, 10.

SECTION C: Rug braiding, 2; Home on range, 6; Joyce Bupp, 12; Ephrata Fair, 24; Lampeter Fair, 24; Dairy pipeline, 30; Lancaster DHIA, 31; Upper Susquehanna DHIA, 35; Chianina field day, 36.

SECTION D: South Mtn. Dairy Show, 5; Del. boar sale, 9; Farm talk, 14; Furrows of time, 16; Dauphin DHIA, 19; Sheila's Shorts, 22; Milk Check, 23; Ask the VMD, 25.

Mushroom growers fight fines, criminal charges

BY CURT HARLER
PHILADELPHIA — Legal briefs are due next month in a Chester County mushroom firm's fight to be recognized as a part of agriculture.

Guido and Jim Frezzo and their corporation, Frezzo Brothers, Inc., are faced with fines totalling \$100,000. Each of the brothers also faces a 30-day prison sentence in a federal case

charging them with violation of the U.S. Water Pollution Control Act.

Even deeper than the fines and jail term is the underlying question of whether the government has the right to require growers to make large financial investments to correct pre-existing conditions when new laws are passed.

The Frezzos' attorney,

Thomas Carroll of the Philadelphia law firm of Carroll and Carroll, is handling the Frezzos' attempt to overturn their earlier conviction and fines.

The Frezzo case dates back to the 1970s. At that time the brothers were found guilty of violations of the federal water pollution standards. Their mushroom
(Turn to Page A23)

Will there be breeding swine at Farm Show?

HARRISBURG — With four new cases of pseudorabies having been identified within the past two weeks in Lebanon County, the question of whether there will be breeding swine at the 1981 Pennsylvania Farm Show remains unanswered.

The final recommendation on whether or not to lift the moratorium rests with Dr. Max A. Van Buskirk Jr., director of the Bureau of Animal Industry in Pennsylvania. He announced he will be finalizing his advice to the Farm Show Commission on September 29.

At the present time, tests are being run to trace the point of origin of the most recent outbreaks in Lebanon County.

Dr. John Cable, also with BIA, reported that the animals with pseudorabies were detected through

packer slaughter checks. While the trace back procedures are being completed, the herds in question have been quarantined, he said.

Farm Show Director Hugh Coffman said the final decision on whether to have a bred gilt show and sale will be announced on October 1.

"We're wanting to let the decision ride until the last possible moment because we don't feel we can honestly make a decision until then," Coffman said. He noted the Commission will be working closely with BIA and the Secretary of Agriculture, Penrose Hallowell.

"I understand that this is an inconvenience for swine breeders," he added. "We want to have the show but we are concerned about the health of the animals exhibited."—SM