

Miller & Rex have Schuylkill Co.'s 1980 top DHI record

FREIDENSBURG — The Miller & Rex herd, R1, Andreas, retained the Schuylkill County Dairy Herd Improvement Association plaque for having the top county herd based on milkfat production in 1980.

The registered and grade Holstein herd finished the year with an average production of 18,118 pounds of milk and 748 pounds of milkfat from 34.4 cows. This is the third consecutive year that the Miller and Rex herd

has finished first in the county.

Also winning a blue ribbon for milkfat production in excess of 700 pounds average per cow was the Heisler Brothers herd, R1, Tamaqua.

Herds winning gold ribbons for milkfat production between 600 and 699 pounds average per cow during the 1980 test year were: Suntrail Dairy Farm, R1, Pitman, 17,707 lbs. milk, 681 lbs. milkfat; Carl A. Farms, R1, Pitman, 16,668 lbs. milk, 658

lbs. milkfat; Wilbert Moyer, R1, Schuylkill Haven, 16,889 lbs. milk, 639 lbs. milkfat; Paul & Ken Wagner, R1, Tamaqua, 16,214 lbs. milk, 631 lbs. milkfat; William R. Daubert, R2, Pine Grove, 15,462 lbs. milk, 626 lbs

milkfat; John Leatherman, R1, Tamaqua, 16,742 lbs. milk, 603 lbs. milkfat; Franklin Troxell, R1, Andreas, 14,981 lbs. milk, 602 lbs. milkfat.

Bruce Leatherman, R1,

Tamaqua, received the trophy for the top milk producing cow. "Lady" produced 27,855 pounds of milk and 1,027 pounds of milkfat during 1980.

The trophy for top milkfat production for an individual

cow went to Miller & Rex. "Lucy" completed the test year with a record of 25,579 pounds of milk and 1,111 pounds milkfat.

The annual meeting and banquet was held Tuesday, January 20.

West may suffer water shortages

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Light snowfall and a smaller-than-normal snowpack in several areas of the West may lead to inadequate water supplies later in the year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration recently reported.

Soil Conservation Service's first snowpack surveys of the season indicate dry fall weather and poor snowpack may result in below normal runoff for a large area of the West.

USDA reports the upper portion of the Columbia basin in Canada has the best snowpack in the region, up to 125 percent of normal.

However, the Columbia River is expected to flow at 97 percent of its average rate. Most tributaries in the United States will contribute less than normal amounts of water. Some water supply shortages may develop in the southern and western sections of the basin.

As 1981 began, the Southwest had poor snowpack. In Arizona, the

meager early-season snowpack has gradually melted away during an unusually dry and warm winter. Runoff in the major rivers in the Southwest is forecast to be about 50 percent of normal.

Elsewhere in the West, most snowpack so far is 70 percent of normal or less. Runoff forecasts are for 60 to 85 percent of normal in most of the region.

Reservoir storage generally is good and should help avert major water supply deficiencies. But water users in areas of low runoff who depend on direct diversion may face mid- and late-season shortages.

The USDA agency surveys snowpack and monitors snowmelt at about 1600 sites throughout the West and Alaska each month from January through May. USDA specialists, in cooperation with the National Weather Service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, analyze the data and issue monthly

forecasts of runoff and water supplies.

Snow accumulated during

winter and spring provides about 75 percent of the western water supply during the year.

Grazing fees set on U.S. acres

WASHINGTON, DC — Fees for grazing livestock will go down on national forests and up on national grasslands in the West this year.

In total, farmers and ranchers will pay about \$18 million in 1981 to graze livestock on these lands — \$4 million less than they did last year.

The grazing fees on national forests in 16 western states will be \$2.31 per animal unit month, a decrease of 10 cents from the 1980 average fee of \$2.41. An animal unit month is grazing for one month by one bull, cow or horse or five sheep or goats.

The formula considers the difference between total costs of public and private grazing, the value of forage, beef cattle prices and the price ranchers pay for items such as fencing, tran-

sportation, and veterinary services for producing cattle. The act limits the amount the fee can increase or decrease in any single year to 25 percent of the previous year's fee.

The same process is used by the Bureau of Land Management of the U.S. Department of the Interior to determine fees for grazing on most lands administered by that agency in the western United States. For the first time since the law was passed, the national forests and the BLM-administered lands in the West will have a uniform fee of \$2.31 per unit month.

As a result of higher forage values and beef cattle price indexes in these states, average fees for grazing on national grasslands in 1981 will increase 11 cents from their 1980 level to \$3.62 per animal unit month.

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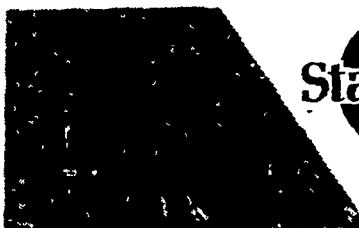
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