

Berks County to hold dairy day Wednesday

BERNVILLE — On February 11, at the Berks Extension Dairy Day Michael O'Connor, extension dairy specialist and Sam Dum, extension farm management specialist, will be two of the main speakers.

O'Connor has been with the Penn State Dairy Extension staff since 1979. A native of Rhode Island, Mike received his B.S. degree at the University of Rhode Island, and his M.S. and doctor's degrees from Virginia Polytechnic Institute. O'Connor is responsible for developing and conducting educational programs in animal reproduction.

Dum has been a member of the P.S.U. staff since 1967. A native of Perry County, Sam has received his bachelor of science and



Samuel A. Dum



Michael O'Connor

masters of science at Penn State in Agricultural Education and Agricultural Economics respectively. He then received his Doctor's in Ag Economics at Purdue University.

Dum's duties are the supervision of educational farm management programs in dairy production economics, crop production, and crop storage economics and farm business analysis.

The program begins at 9 am and will be held at the Agricultural Center in Bern Township.

Topics include:
9:30 Structures for Young Stock (three months to calving - Dan Myer - PSU Ext. Ag Engineer
10:15 Estrus Synchronization and the use of Prostaglandin - Mike

O'Connor, PSU Dairy Scientist
11:00 Emergency Crops Economics and their Uses in Cropping and Feeding - Sam Dum - PSU Ext. Farm Management Specialist

11:45 Pesticide Update Training - Clyde Myers, Berks Co. Agent
12:00 Lunch

1:00 Energy Considerations in Dairy Facilities - Dan Myer

1:45 Records Today - for Tomorrow's Management Decisions - Sam Dum

2:30 Maximizing Reproduction Efficiency - Mike O'Connor.

3:15 Question & Answer Period
Reservations can be made by calling Clyde A.B. Myers, County Agent at the Extension Service 215/378-1327.

Cattle due for less time in feedlot

DENVER, Colo. — Regardless of whether the present U.S. beef grading system is modernized to emphasize the production of high-yielding lean beef without reduction in quality to the consumer, cattle are due for less time in the feedlot, says one of the nation's largest feeders.

R.L. "Bob" Bliss, vice-president of the cattle feeding division of Friona Industries, Inc., Friona, Texas, told members of American-International Charolais Association gathered in Denver for their 24th Annual Meeting production costs are forcing feedlot operators to change their ways of finishing cattle.

"Feed grain prices have increased 30 percent and we are experiencing the highest rates ever," he said. "Feeders are

looking for ways to cut costs and the consumer is looking for lean beef."

Bliss, who is president of the Texas Cattle Feeders Association, alluded to research that showed cattle, after reaching certain weight levels for their breed, tend only to lay on costly excess fat that is trimmed and discarded.

Increased production of large-framed, higher cutting cattle is needed, he said, to provide the kind of cattle that will efficiently produce more quality lean beef in a short time. He told the Charolais breeders they stand to contribute more to the trend toward lean beef production than the other continental breeds because of their greater cattle numbers.

Bliss cited a special study by Friona Industries this past year in

which carcasses from Charolais-cross bulls, heifers, steers and Holsteins were evaluated at Texas A&M University.

He said the evaluation showed only 6.6 percent fat trim from the Charolais cattle, compared to 7.6 percent for the Holsteins and 10 percent for the choice carcasses evaluated. Charolais provided 48.9 percent of their initial carcass weight in selected sub-primal cuts.

Bliss also pointed out that by "cleaning up the choice grade", producers would provide the best quality beef with the tenderness and flavor desired by the consumer.

"The only thing we'd be removing from the beef is excess fat, which the consumer does not want," he explained.

At present, he stated, the choice

grade provides 8 percent of the carcass market, but "there are large numbers of cattle in the choice grade that should not be there."

Bliss suggested that with improved leanness of beef, more high choice cattle would move into the prime grade, which now utilizes only 6 percent of the carcass market, and provide prime beef with 16-17 percent of the market.

On the bottom side, sufficient top good carcasses that are being merchandised successfully under private labels could be brought into the choice grade without sacrificing tenderness, flavor and juiciness. Such a move would permit the choice grade to accommodate 70 to 75 percent of carcass beef supplies. The balance

of the good grade then would be used for processed meats, flaked and ground.

W.T. "Dub" Berry, executive vice president of the National Cattlemen's Association, told the Charolais breeders about the cooperative efforts of the various segments of the industry to modernize the grading system, and urged their participation in industry affairs.

Purebred breeders in this country represent only three percent of the total production, with 97 percent represented by the commercial segment. Yet, each is faced with common problems, he said, urging a continuing breeder participation in NCA affairs.

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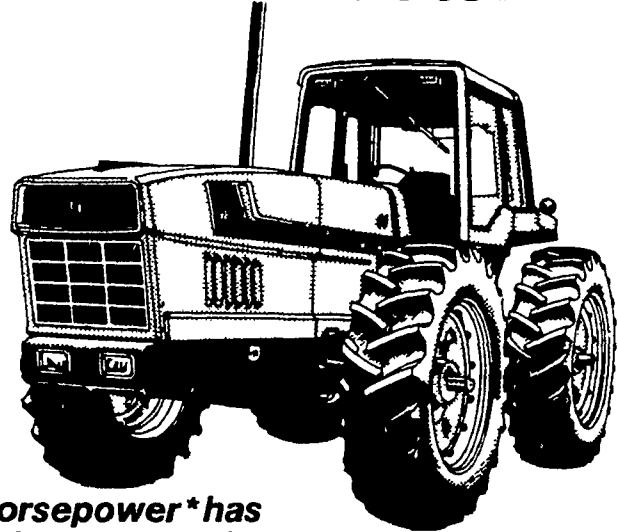
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