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Ralph Dotterer, right, of R2, Mill Hall, was named Cattleman of the Year during the Cattlemen's Banquet. Left to right are Sam Washburn of Fowler, Ind., president-elect of the National Cattlemen's Association; Galen E.

Dreibelbis, State College, toastmaster and cattle breeder; and J. Paul Espy of R1, Tyrone, past president of the Cattlemen's Association. See story Page A-37.

New U.S. corn pest confirmed locally this week

BY CURT HARLER

CHESTERTOWN, Md. — A corn pest so new to the United States that it doesn't have an official name, was positively identified for the first time this week on a Kent County, Md. farm.

Lancaster Farming has learned that *Heterodera zea*, being called corn cyst nematode for convenience, was confirmed by researchers at USDA's Beltsville lab.

Previously, the pest was known only in India, Pakistan, and Egypt, although officials say it could have been present but undetected in the U.S.

While officials at USDA say there is little hope for eradication of the pest, they say there is no need for panic. Early guesses show it may become economically significant in American corn fields, although control may not be difficult.

The pest was identified in a 200 acre Kent County corn field which was sampled as part of the Delmarva Nematode Survey. Kent County is located on Maryland's Upper Eastern Shore, directly South of Lancaster and Chester Counties in Pennsylvania.

A soil assay was done on the farm and an established corn cyst nematode population found.

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service plans to meet Thursday, March 12 to discuss the situation.

At that time they will review the biology of the pest, the current situation in Maryland, and make recommendations on how to proceed.

USDA said first steps will be to notify neighboring states, the Canadian and Mexican governments.

Corn cyst nematode first was described in India in 1970. Later it

was found to be widely distributed in six Indian states.

The Indians say it causes economic damage on their maize, or corn.

(Turn to Page A46)

DER finds PCBs on Chester farm

BY DEBBIE KOONTZ

GLENNMORE — A hushed investigation is being conducted into the discovery of PCB contamination on a Chester County farm owned by Cris Esh.

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources Thursday said five drums of oil contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls were discovered on Esh's Wyebrook Farm in West Nantmeal Township.

According to DER there is a

"substantial possibility" other farmers in this area may have received the contaminated oil and may be unknowingly jeopardizing their livestock and crops.

Concentrations of PCBs in the oil ranged from 2500 parts per million in one of the drums to almost pure PCB material in another.

Concentrations of PCBs also have been detected in the soil and sand in an area about 75 by 120 feet on Esh's property and in a chicken egg produced on the farm.

Investigation began due to earlier rumors of possible PCB contamination from the same oil source, which Esh, officials of DER, and the Ag Department refused to identify pending completion of the investigation by DER.

Bruce Bettler, DER's Solid Waste Operations Supervisor, said attorneys in the State Justice Department have ordered all parties to remain silent until the investigation is concluded.

On Friday, meat and tissue samples from Esh's livestock were analyzed at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Summerdale Lab for possible contamination. Results are not yet available.

Esh said he was unaware that the oil, used to lubricate his equipment, contained PCBs.

"I thought something was wrong, though, because of the smell," he said.

Marilyn Hewitt of DER's Solid Waste Operations admitted the oil source has been under question before due to PCB contamination.

Other Chester County farmers who received waste oil from local industries are asked to contact Bruce Bettler or Marilyn Hewitt at Solid Waste Operations at 1875 New Hope St., Norristown, 215/631-2413, so their soil can be examined for possible contamination.

Dairymen told to control debt

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

LANCASTER — This will be a year to get better not bigger.

This message was conveyed and repeated a number of times on Tuesday before a full-house crowd at the Lancaster County Dairy Day program at the Farm and Home Center.

Glenn Shirk, Lancaster dairy agent, set the tone for the meeting by explaining that times are changing and things may not be as easy for the dairy operator as before.

He was the first to utter the better not bigger theme.

It's a time to protect the profit

margin with better production," he said.

And control that debt load. If you borrow, make sure you're doing it to get better production."

He reminded the attending dairymen that to get good producing cows you must care for the heifers.

Mistreating a heifer is putting a cap on her production, Shirk said.

She may have inherited the potential to be a 17,000-lb producer, but only milk 15,000 lbs because of what we have done to her.

Also, be sure protecting the dry

(Turn to Page A47)

News and features

Officials welcome Holstein buyers, A18; NFU meets in Florida, A26; Expo champs, A35; Cattle honors, A37; Farm bill hearings, A38; Elizabethtown Young Farmers, C30; Md. soybean champs, C41.

Women and youth

4-H leader dog program, A30; Homestead notes, C2; Home on the range, C6; Kids' Korner, C10; 4-H club news, C14; Agri-women and ag day, C20; FFA meats judging, C34; Holstein women meeting, C45.

Dairy reports

Penn Gate breeding program, A22; 20 cows die, A43; More Holstein Convention winners, B2; Solanco dairymen cited, C36; York-Adams Calfarmers, C47; Bradford DHIA, D2; Adams DHIA, D10; Blair DHIA, D18.

Regular columns

Editorials, A10; Farm calendar, A12; Joyce Bupp's column, C8; Have you heard? C12; Ida's notebook, C13; Farm Talk, D14.