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Gov. Thornburgh pins a "You've Got a Friend in Pa." button on the coveralls of Ross Snider, who is proudly being held by Grandpa Obie Snider, of Imler, Bedford County. The governor visited the Sniders' Singing Brook Farm on Thursday night to meet and talk with farm leaders from Bedford and surrounding counties.

Governor visits 'country'

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

IMLER — Twenty-month-old Ross Thomas Snider, of Imler, Bedford County, has a friend in Pennsylvania.

He has a bright red and white button to prove it.

And what's more the friend who gave it to him Thursday night is a special one.

Ross' friend is Gov. Dick Thornburgh, who visited Grandpa Obie Snider's dairy farm nestled in a lush mountain valley about 10 miles north of Bedford.

The governor's visit to Singing Brook Farm, well known in Holstein breeding circles throughout the state and beyond, was part of a three-day trip to the "country," which combined some tourist promotion and first-person meetings with farmers and agricultural groups.

After stops at Chambersburg and Old Bedford Village earlier in the day for speaking engagements and "pressing the flesh," Governor Thornburgh, accompanied by Secretary of Agriculture Penrose Hallowell, pulled up the long lane to the large

farmstead nestled among some 1100 cultivated and wooded acres to begin a whirlwind stopover, which included a walk-through tour, steak barbecue and an opportunity to talk with farm leaders from Bedford and surrounding counties.

A special cow was brought out to be introduced to the governor and

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secretary at the start of the tour.

She's Singing Brook Astro Betty, a four-year-old being consigned by the Sniders to the Penn State Ag Arena Fund Raising Sale scheduled at the Farm Show Building on December 11.

"She produced 20,000 pounds as a three-year-old," Snider explained.

"Her dam was the all-Pennsylvania aged cow two years ago at the State Holstein Show."

"How much do you think she'll bring?" the governor asked.

"I'm going to open the bidding at ten thousand," Hallowell quipped.

Betty's dam is Singing Brook BT Betsy, who also took first in owned

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Maryland co-op considers merger

BY DONNA TOMMELLEO

BALTIMORE, Md. — A spokesperson for the Maryland Cooperative Milk Producers announced Thursday, that the co-op is considering a possible merger with Dairymen Incorporated, a large Southeastern cooperative.

At the MCMP annual meeting last year, members commissioned the board to look into a consolidation with several cooperatives.

"After extensive study, the Board and management feel that Dairymen Inc. is the best alternative when considering the long-range welfare of our dairy farmer members," said MCMP business manager, R.L. Strock.

"Dairymen Inc.," explained Strock, "is a progressive organization which carries with it a strong Class I marketing plan."

The large co-op, which currently has some 6800 members, markets a great deal of its milk in an area of increasing population — the nation's Sunbelt, said MCMP Public Relations Director Susie Richburg.

Richburg explained the possible merger would be actually a purchase. She said if approved, Dairymen Inc. would purchase MCMP's assets and the Maryland co-op and its 1200 members would become the Middle Atlantic Division of Dairymen Inc.

Therefore, Richburg said, the move technically would be a purchase and not a merger.

"Historically, mergers have been brought about by organizations in financial difficulty. This is not the case."

She strongly pointed out that both organizations are on "firm financial footing."

In addition to the larger co-op's financial strength, Richburg said, corporate marketing expertise and

innovative marketing activities played a large part in selection.

One such innovative move is the upcoming Dairymen Inc. Ultra High Temperature plant. The manufacturing of UHT (sterile) milk will allow the co-op to market internationally.

The large co-op has also established a cull cow program to eliminate surplus milk. The Management Efficiency program, removes cull cows from the market and consequently creates a more stable market by not flooding it, explained Richburg.

MCMP is presently conducting local "shade tree" meetings. Members are provided with the consolidation details, slide presentations and may elect to vote at that time.

District 7 director, Emory Kilgore, York County, conducted a local meeting Wednesday night and found the member response quite positive.

He said he felt the consolidation would ease the financial burden on individual members by spreading costs out over a larger number of people.

Following the local meetings, MCMP plans to move the formal district meetings to August rather than October said Richburg. The entire co-op is expected to vote on the proposal at a special meeting on August 24 at the Hunt Valley Inn. Richburg explained that a two-thirds yes vote is necessary to pass the measure.

If passed, she said she doesn't anticipate a cumbersome transition process due to the larger co-op's centralized policy which allows for local division policy-setting.

"There will not be a lot of head chopping. It will be a smooth transition."

Suffolk ram breaks record, brings \$6 grand

BY SHEILA MILLER

HARRISBURG — A January junior ram lamb created quite a stir at last Saturday's Keystone Stud Ram and Ewe Sale, held here at the Farm Show Complex. This Suffolk ram, consigned by 25-year-old Alan Culham of Dansville, Michigan, topped the sale and set a record by bringing a grand price of \$6,000.

To bring that kind of price, the ram must have been the grand champion Suffolk — right?

Surprisingly, show judges Ron Guenther of Columbus, Ohio and Rolhe Rosenboom of Clifton, Illinois didn't see it that way. They placed this junior lamb in third position — right behind the grand and reserve grand champs who fetched price tags of \$350 and \$425 respectively.

Sired by Quasar MSU 79-50 out of A&B Culham 293, this ram lamb caught the eye of E. Richard Eberts, R1 Neville and a mysterious contending bidder who disappeared into the crowd soon

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Apiarists had something to buzz about last week at the Tri-County Beekeepers meeting A22.

Forty-three dairy princesses make quite a royal showing...C18

The latest in jewelry and hats for cows—will it start a trend? See page C16.



Richard Eberts, Neville, left, gazes proudly at his newly acquired \$6,000 Suffolk ram lamb. Eberts purchased the ram from Alan Culham, Dansville, Michigan, during the 33rd Keystone Stud Ram and Ewe Sale held at the Farm Show Complex last Saturday. See show results, A34.