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Lebanon dairy couple

earns Colorado trip

LEBANON — In two weeks, while most farmers log a few miles in a tractor seat, a young Lebanon couple will be west of the Rockies, relaxing and learning about cooperatives.

Gary and Barbara Lentz, Agway representatives, will be attending the American Institute of Cooperation annual summer conference at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, July 27-30.

The young couple, both from dairy backgrounds, began farming about a year ago. They are presently renting a 300-acre farm owned by Ed Funck of Lebanon County. Although Gary admits he would someday like to own his own farm he is pleased with their current arrangement which enables him to work with Funck, an experienced dairyman.

While Funck provides the feed and facilities, Gary and Barbara own their herd of 40 registered Holsteins.

Before they married last year, Gary owned 15 cows and Barbara had four cows of her own. In addition to that foundation, they purchased about 20 more head from local breeders.

The herd is fed high moisture corn, alfalfa haylage and about five to six pounds of hay per head per day.

Gary completed a breeding course with an A.I. stud and now breeds all his animals.

In addition to her part time job, Barbara is also active on the farm and helps out when she can.

The AIC, an association of farmer cooperatives organized in 1925, conducts educational programs to promote a better understanding of cooperatives among members and the public.

This year, the conference's theme is "Cooperative Challenges and Changes."



Lebanon's Gary and Barbara Lentz look forward to learning more about co-ops at the American Institute of Cooperation summer program at Colorado State University, July 27-30.

Md. Extension reorganizes districts

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — The University of Maryland's Cooperative Extension Service has recently made alterations in its middle-management organizational structure to better serve residents of the state.

Included in the "new look" is realignment of some organizational boundary lines in order to concentrate the state's major metropolitan areas into one district for supervisory purposes. The changes became effective on July 1.

This means Maryland's "golden buckle," stretching from the Chesapeake Bay to the Potomac River, is now a single unit for planning purposes, notes Craig S. Oliver, director of the statewide Cooperative Extension Service.

The "buckle" encompasses Baltimore and the Annapolis area, plus the Maryland suburbs of Washington, D.C. Counties in this newly organized metropolitan district include Anne Arundel, Montgomery, Prince Georges, Calvert, Charles and St. Marys.

Supervisor for the new metropolitan district is Ila D. Harris, a professional Extension worker in Maryland since 1978 and a resident of the Hillandale area in Silver Spring (Montgomery County). Harris previously had been an Extension supervisor on Maryland's lower Eastern Shore. This district includes Caroline, Talbot, Dorchester, Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset counties.

Succeeding Harris on the lower Eastern Shore is David D. Eigonbrode of Fulton (Howard County). He has been a state Extension supervisor since 1968.

During the past 4 years, he supervised activities of Extension agents in the Upper Bay area, which encompasses Carroll, Baltimore, Harford, Cecil, Kent and Queen Annes counties.

The new supervisor in Eigonbrode's old territory is Betty L. Bures of Braddock Heights (Frederick County). Bures has been an Extension supervisor in Maryland for 2 years.

Bobby G. Busbice of Lanham (Prince Georges County) has assumed supervisory responsibilities for activities of the Cooperative Extension Service in western Maryland—the area previously served by Mrs. Bures. Since 1977, he had been the supervisor for southern Maryland. His new territory includes Allegany, Garrett, Washington, Frederick and Howard Counties.

High producers live longer

UNIVERSITY PARK — How long a dairy cow lives depends on her owner's willingness to let her live—rather than on her ability to survive, says Lawrence W. Specht, extension dairy specialist at Penn State.

The decision on whether to keep an individual animal or not depends on the amount of milk she gives and the way her temperament fits into an efficient dairy operation.

The heifer that stays in the herd will—more often than not—be the daughter of a good production sire, explains Specht. Research workers find that the average number of lactations completed by the daughters of a sire is a good indicator of the breeding value of a bull.

One study showed that 45% of the daughters of good bulls were still in the herds after five lactations, while only 20% of the heifers from poor bulls were still milking after five lactations.

It's often implied that a bull whose first lactation daughters

aren't doing well should be excused because his pedigree shows promise of "longevity." While you can find exceptions that prove any point, the fact remains that research work indicates that the better milking heifers stay in herds longer than their less productive mates, Specht points out.

This is a consequence of "longevity" being primarily a function of the dairymen's management decisions when animals are culled, rather than one of the animal's ability to survive, he adds.



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