

Branstetter brothers, Wiggins join '700 Club'

BY PATTY GROSS
Staff Correspondent

ALEXANDRIA — The "largest crowd ever" for the DHIA annual meeting in Huntingdon County looked on, as Board Vice President Tim Nowlin, Warriors Mark, presented awards to a large number of fellow farmers.

Brothers Terry and Joel Branstetter, Tyrone, along with Howard and Nancy Wiggins of R4 Tyrone were honored with membership in the "700 Club." The

Branstetter Farms went over the top with a record of 707 pounds of fat and 19,428 pounds of milk. The Wiggins farm stood out from the others in the county with 18,664 pounds of milk and 702 pounds of fat, guaranteeing them a plaque.

The John Staley Award for the highest butterfat gain in Huntingdon County was won by Shade Gap dairyman Philip Yohn. Like it so often happens, Yohn was unable to get away from the barn in time to collect the top award. Instead he

sent as his representative his future sister-in-law, Tracy McMATH. McMATH explained Yohn was trying to break-in his herd on a new milking parlor. Yohn's milk production was at 15,559 pounds and 579 pounds of fat for this year's largest gain of 125 pounds. He topped the 0-50 Cows Class.

Jefferson Byler placed high in the 50 - 80 Cows class with a gain of 87 fat pounds. His herd is at 568 pounds and 15,912 pounds of milk. Another award for the highest fat gain was presented to Mike Behrer of Spruce Creek. In the 80 Cows and Up category, his farm produced 17,566 pounds of milk and 637 pounds of fat, which is an increase of 88 pounds over last year.

Charles Schilling has been working a long time to become a member of the "600 Club." His Locust Lane Farm, R.D. Petersburg, had a herd record average of 625 pounds of fat and 17,245 pounds of milk. A similar award went to Bill and Debbie Hoover, R4, Tyrone, for their record of 16,153 pounds of milk and 612 fat pounds. Allensville farmer Samuel Byler, this year, had 16,660 pounds of milk and 600 pounds of fat. Nineteen other Huntingdon County farm owners were recognized for their herd records.

More than 200 people were at the Juniata Valley Elementary School in Alexandria Wednesday night for the 54th DHIA annual get together. County Extension Director Harold Lockhoff told the crowd he is proud of the job they are doing. "We have a tremendous organization in Huntingdon County. You don't have to take a back seat to any other county."

Lockhoff explained that the number of cows in the county have increased. The DHIA annual report shows there are 5,645 as compared to 5,096 last year. In 1979-80, milk production was 14,656 pounds. This year it is 15,238. That's above the state average of 15,134 pounds. Fat has increased by 15 pounds from last year to 565 pounds. The latest figures show there are 83 herds in the county with an average of 68 cows per herd. Last year there were 62 cows per herd.



Charles Schilling, Petersburg, right, is the newest member of Huntingdon County's '600 Club'. His Locust Lane Farm had a herd average of 625 pounds of fat and 17,245 pounds of milk.



Looking over the Huntingdon County DHIA annual report are award winners Terry and Joel Branstetter, Tyrone, from left; DHIA Board President Tom Eberle, Petersburg; and award recipient Howard Wiggins, R4 Tyrone.



Howard and Nancy Wiggins, R4 Tyrone, right, accept a plaque recognizing their butterfat record of 702 pounds from DHIA Board Vice President Tim Nowlin.



Tracy McMATH accepts her future brother-in-law's plaque from Tim Nowlin. Philip Yohn of Shade Gap won the John Staley Award for the highest butterfat gain — 125 pounds this year.



Two other Huntingdon County dairy producers recognized for their increases in milkfat production were Mike Behrer, Spruce Creek, left, 17,566 pounds milk and 637 pounds fat for an 88 pound fat gain; and Jefferson Byler, Petersburg, 15,912 pounds milk and 568 pounds fat for an 87 pound fat gain.

Del. offers marketing workshop for grain farmers

NEWARK, Del. — As the cost-price squeeze continues to tighten, grain farmers are placing increasing emphasis on marketing, as they plan their farming operations. To help growers make more profitable marketing decisions, the Delaware Cooperative Extension Service has scheduled a workshop on Grain Marketing Strategies and Alternatives, Thursday and Friday, December 3 and 4, at the Sheraton Inn in Dover.

The Thursday morning session starts at 9 and will include reports on the current feed grain and oilseeds situations and outlook by U.S. Department of Agriculture senior commodity analyst Sam Evans and USDA agricultural economist Leslie Herren. These will be followed by a talk on "Basis Trading: How it Works and How to Use It," by Chuck Krepshaw of Cargill Inc., Seaford.

The Thursday afternoon session runs from 1:15 to 3. It will begin with a talk by University of Delaware Extension crops marketing specialist Carl German on hedging as a marketing alternative. Then Merrill Lynch vice president Bob Purkey will

discuss grain marketing strategies for 1981-82 and 1982-83 crops. Purkey, who manages the brokerage's regional commodity office in Virginia Beach, Va., has had extensive experience in the grain trade as a merchandiser and account executive. He is also a grain inspector.

The final session of the workshop will run from 8 a.m. to noon on December 4. It will include an explanation and demonstration of the Extension Service's new computer hedging program — the result of a four-year effort by German to develop a system which simplifies marketing decisions for Delaware grain farmers.

This presentation will be

followed by a talk by University of Delaware Extension farm management specialist Don Tilmon on "Risk Considerations in Marketing Decisions." The workshop will conclude with a skit prepared by John Troth, account executive for Merrill Lynch, and Kent county agent Dave Woodward entitled "Everything You've Always Wanted to Know About Opening a Commodity Hedging Account."

There is a \$10 registration fee for the workshop. To pre-register, call the county extension office in Newark 302/738-2506, Dover 302/736-4675, or Georgetown 302/856-5250.

Penn State schedules game bird conference

UNIVERSITY PARK — The annual Pennsylvania Game Bird Conference is scheduled for February 22 and 23, 1982 at Penn State. This course is designed for anyone interested in game birds or hunting resort operation.

The various sessions will be

conducted by some of the most experienced individuals in the fields of game bird production and hunting resort management.

For additional information and a registration form, please contact Agricultural Conference, 410 J.O. Keller Bldg., University Park, PA 16802.