

## Del. Holstein breeders elect officers

CLAYTON, De. — The Delaware Holstein Breeders Association held their annual meeting on Saturday, January 23 at the Eastburn farm

near Clayton. About 75 people attended.

Dan Vanderwende was elected president of the Association, and

Wayne Collison vice president. Vanderwende, Marty Dickson and Levis Phipps were named directors. Outstanding junior members are Mike Cain, Harrington, and Linda Cook, Middletown.

The Association presented extension dairy specialist George Haenlein with a framed photograph of the Eastburn's cow, Aucreek Ivanho Star Gay Beauty. At 36,833 pounds of milk and 1,200 pounds of fat in 348 days' milking, she is the highest producing cow in Delaware history.

## Bergland

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when they are due. This cooperative arrangement of direct trading is being encouraged by countries like Mexico, Bergland stated, because it does not threaten national security.

In countries like Japan, Bergland pointed out, the government pays exorbitant price supports to its dairy and beef producers even though it would be far cheaper for them to import the meat and dairy products from the U.S. "They've retreated with the knowledge that it's dangerous for them to become so vulnerable, that they've got to maintain the semblance of a beef economy and a dairy economy even if it costs them a bundle. Because if they were to allow their country to be taken up in imports in all regards, they would be completely helpless if there was an embargo or war."

This type of attitude, said Bergland, is common throughout the world. "It doesn't need to prevent trade," he said, "but must be addressed and realized as we start contemplating the future." Bergland forecast that cooperatives will have about three years to fashion programs, energies and attentions to feeding a hungry world.

In still another prediction, the former Secretary of Agriculture announced his belief that farmers will never see another farm program. "There's a big argument these days about federal budgets, farm income, and the role of government programs and market orders, and the entire spectrum of traditional kinds of federal farm programs. I'm convinced that this program we now have is probably the last program we'll ever have in any Congress of the United States."

Bergland, who served six years as a Minnesota congressman, said the toughest problem he faced during his time in Washington, was convincing urban legislators that a farm program was in their best interest.

"I am convinced that government price supports will be to the farm economy what minimum wages are to the working world — no profit in a job at \$3 an hour. And the pressures against passing programs that guarantee a decent return on your investment and for your time are immense because people are convinced that the benefits go to big farms — that the small farms don't really share in the benefits of these programs."

Bergland added that he became convinced during his last three years with USDA "that the old days of marketing quotas, acreage allotments and higher price supports were probably not possible again given the political situation in Congress." He confessed he was "fed up" with a number of federal programs that were passed under the premise of saving the family farm, citing cases of Farmers Home Administration loans to "persons who had incredibly bad business judgement, that were huge in their scale. We had 200 loans that were more than \$1 million a piece for so-called emergency credit, and not enough money to help people get started."

Under this direction, USDA organized and published the "Structure Study", an attempt to "get down to brass tacks" and find out where the USDA benefits were going. This study also identified where the strength in our nation's agriculture lies, the family farm.

"There are 2.6 million farms in

our country today. Of that number, 1.7 million have income, gross sales, of under \$20,000 a piece, and together produce only 10 percent of that which finds its way to the market place. These 1.7 million farms, with \$27 billion income in nonfarm wages, don't depend on price supports or market orders because they're not in the business of farming for a living.

"On the other extreme, there are 60,000 farms in the U.S. with gross sales of more than \$200,000 a piece that produce 40 percent of everything that finds its way to the market place. And those big farms walk off with the lion's share of the farm subsidies.

"The myth is that those are the efficient farms. The fact is they're not because if the federal subsidies were withdrawn from those 60,000 large scale farms, for the most part, they couldn't make it go.

"In between, then, we have about 800,000 farms that we commonly call the commercial family farm — average gross income at \$150,000 a piece. Big enough to keep a family busy, big enough to use modern farming techniques, small enough so that the decisions are made by the family itself. Some people feel that kind of family agriculture is a vanishing breed, not strong. The fact is, that kind of family agriculture is the most resourceful, energetic, efficient structure in farming in the U.S. today."

One of the enemies of the family farm today, according to Bergland, is farmland inflation — escalated values of land which can be mortgaged toward expansion of farms and which prohibit young people from entering the field because of the extreme costs. Government subsidies aren't the answer, said Bergland, because they would not benefit those who need them the most. He suggested revamping the tax strategy in the U.S. and putting limits on land speculation.

"We ought to establish a credit policy that says we're going to provide meaningful credit assistance to those who want to start, and those who want to improve and modernize — but there's a limit. Once they've achieved a size that's big enough to use all the modern methods and economies of scale, government subsidies stop. They can choose to grow beyond that, but they do so at their own risk.

In summing up, Bergland urged dairy producers and cooperatives to take their industry into their own hands, dealing with surplus production and improved marketing abroad, and dealing effectively with questions on the structure of the dairy industry.

"Should we continue to subsidize and encourage large scale dairy production in some states? Does it make sense? If not, what do we do about it?" Bergland urged a careful assessment of the role of market orders and federal price guarantees; and an assessment of the role of cooperatives — to see what can be done to fashion a program that is "independent of the political whims of that city called the Nation's Capital because you don't know what's going to happen next year. You make a commitment to go in the dairy business, and you're in for the long haul. It's not something you can get into this week and out of next year."

"I think the dairy industry is in for hard times," remarked Bergland, "and the only effective means of managing that is to get control over their own destiny."

## PFU charter

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to proposed policies for 1982. One of the major policies they voted on was their stand on the upcoming milk referendum. According to Brown, PFU will be opposing the milk referendum. And its milk cooperatives will be exercising the right to bloc vote — even though PFU campaigned strongly against bloc voting last year and its policy still opposes it.

"The economy is down, milk consumption is down, and

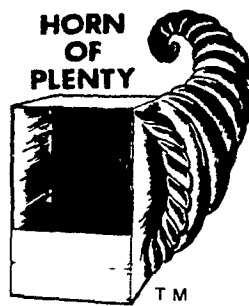
promoting milk won't sell it," he stated. He conceded that if brand advertising would be a provision of the referendum, it would help the Farmers' Union consider its support. However, as it stands, the new president professed PFU's determination to defeat the referendum.

Other resolutions considered by the delegates included water usage, ag land preservation, treatment of animals, and energy.



During the three-day convention, Pennsylvania Farmers Union honored three of its members for outstanding service. National President George Stone congratulates the Golden Triangle Award winners: from left, Norm Hutchinson, dairyman from Mercer Co.

and PFU member since 1949, Cooperation Award; Jack Philson, Mercer Co. dairyman and 10-year member, Legislative Award; and Chester Reed, Tioga Co. and Eastern PFU field representative, Education Award.



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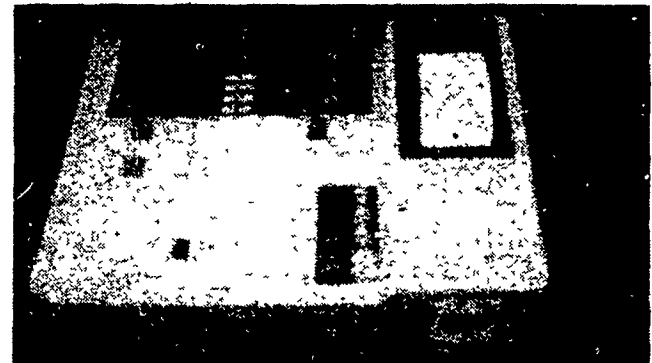
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