

York Co. holds Annual Dairy Day

BAIR — Atlantic Breeders Cooperative, Lancaster, and the Agricultural Extension Service teamed personnel and programs for the annual York County Dairy Day, held last Thursday at the county's 4-H Center.

Eight of the county's top herds were honored for their accomplishments with certificates from the breeders cooperative. Herds qualifying for the award recognition were required to rank at least 15 percent above state average in milk or fat production, with a minimum two-thirds of the cows sired by Atlantic bulls.

Representatives highlighted the past year, calling it one of the most

successful in Atlantic's history. A one-percent conception rate improvement was established on a total of over 300,000 cow services by field technicians with an average of 12 years experience. Semen sales to a variety of domestic and overseas distributors also showed significant increases.

Featured on the afternoon Atlantic portion of Dairy Day was a highly informative and detailed film on reproductive efficiency. Following up that presentation, cooperative general manager David Yoder encouraged increased herd record keeping for better management. As an aid to dairymen, personnel of the stud

distributed pocket-sized herd management booklets, one handy aid in which farmers were urged to immediately make note of cows seen in heat, or in need of health treatment.

Haylage harvesting, another management angle, got a share of attention from three county dairymen during the morning Extension Service portion of the program. Tips in putting up the valuable forage came from Bob Smyser, York, Ralph McGregor, East Berlin, and Joe Stump, York New Salem.

Smyser is part of a dairying partnership with his father, Richard, and brother, Rodney, on

East Berlin Road. They ventured into haylage making just two years ago at the urging of county agent John Smith and store the harvested product in conventional silos.

Only the first-cutting at the Smyser farm goes into haylage, cut and windrowed preferably at early bloom stage. When weather is cooperative, 24-hour drydown takes the haylage rows to their ideal harvest moisture.

Stems go through the chopper to come out the spout as long as possible using no screen, but with knives set as close as possible. An innoculant is added before storage.

Last year, the final loads were treated with an application of Chemstore, twenty pounds to the ton, enabling the Smyasers to begin feeding the haylage immediately.

"It's easier and faster to get off the field than bales," attests Smyser. He added that the first summer on haylage, the cows received no other silage feed, and performed well at the milk pail. Last year, some corn silage was included in the ration, and production dropped somewhat by comparison.

Joe Stump, one of the state's Master Farmers for 1982, was the

(Turn to Page A26)

BY Staff

YORK — forage crop we can grow quality and potential, producing or That's what State's grass say about alf Baylor, foremost a production, tending the results of cc alfalfa in Pennsylvania Council.

As it alfalfa, enough worry haymaking droughty sp threat may r disease know

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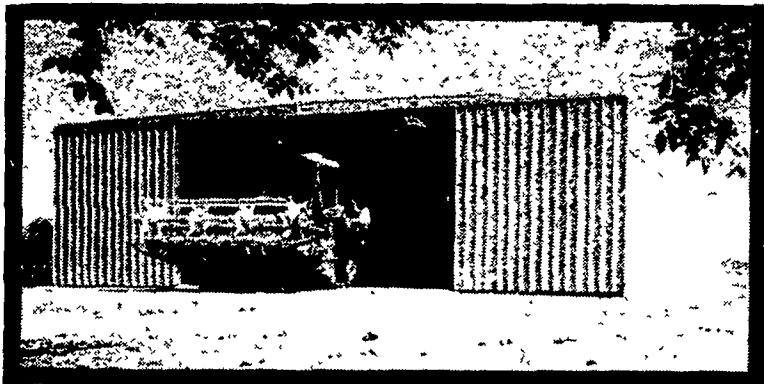
York Dairy Day haylage panelists compared test results on samples of the popular forage. From left are Joe Stump, Ralph McGregor, and Bob Smyser.



Atlantic Breeders recognized York County's top herds and dairy producers: front row, from left, Wayne Myers, Martin Gray, and Robert Charles; back row, from left, Bob Smyser, Lynn Wolf, Jeff Wolgemuth.

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