

ET highlights Franklin Dairy Day

BY BETH HEMMINGER
Staff Correspondent

CHAMBERSBURG — At the recent Franklin County Dairy Day, Wayne Hall of Shippensburg shared his experiences with embryo transplants. Hall, a dairy farmer for 14 years, has transplanted the embryos of two of his excellent cows.

A question harbored by many of the farmers during the meeting was "Why?" Hall's answer to the question was simple. "I wanted more offspring from my top-notch cows."

He remarked, "People have asked me if I am transplanting out of curiosity or maybe because it is a novel idea." "Hardly," he said, pointing out that once any farmer looks at the investment transplanting takes, it squelches any curious ideas.

Hall said he feels most dairymen who are breeding with the new method are at the introductory level, breeding one or two ex-

cellent cows for top-quality offspring. However, he said, embryo transplanting doesn't eliminate the risk of having bulls. "You still have a fifty-fifty chance of getting a heifer."

Since his first transplant two years ago, Hall said costs have dropped slightly because of the growing competition in providing transplanting service. He stated that Select Sire is now offering the service and he looks for other breeding businesses to "hop on the band wagon." However, he said, it is still a costly process at \$500 to \$700 per pregnancy for the average farmer.

Hall said that his first transplant was done with an Excellent aged cow. He said that she was old and he didn't know if he could breed her one more time. "Transplanting was the solution to that problem," he said.

Hall stated that he didn't fair too well with his first transplants. Only two embryos were transplanted

with only one pregnancy and that was a bull.

His second transplant to another Excellent cow producing 32,000 pounds of milk looks extremely favorable. Hall stated, "There were seven embryos transplanted in December and to date there are seven pregnancies, however, they are all still in the recipient stage."

Hall said embryo transplanting is definitely an upcoming method of reproduction in the dairy industry. However he said the average dairyman must be able to show profit for this kind of investment before the process will become commonplace.

Hall said he is interested in new developments and keeps abreast of new information about transplanting through magazines and various publications. He said that he recently read that researchers are now working on ways to freeze the embryos, dictating the sex of the embryo and cloning.

Hall admitted, "The future

sounds like a little frightening, but it is definitely the road we are headed for in dairy reproduction."

Along with Hall, Harold Crider, Chambersburg and Jed Bashore, New Cumberland gave presentations similar to Hall's about their experience with embryo transplants.

Crider has completed at least one transplant and Bashore has been using the process for four

years and has transplanted four or more different cows.

Mike O'Connor of Penn State also presented information about embryo transplanting at the meeting. He provided those members of the audience, who knew little about the new reproduction process with basic facts and procedures, from insemination to flushing and transplanting.

Manor YF banquet set

MILLERSVILLE — The Manor Young Farmers' banquet will be held on Thursday, April 1, at 6:30 p.m. in the Penn Manor High School cafeteria.

The speaker will be Keith Eckel, President of the Pennsylvania

Farmers' Association. His topic will be "Eastern Agriculture".

Music will be provided by some local farmers, The Bluegrass Jug Band. Tickets are \$7.00. For reservations call Jeff Hart, PMHS, at 872-5431 or Henry Barley, at 872-5562.

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Fuel savings/cow/year 3.2 gal		200 lbs/acre	125 lbs/acre	200 lbs/acre
		25 tons daily spread manure		
		Nitrogen	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O
		150 lbs/acre	51 lbs/acre	20 lbs/acre
		25 tons semisolid manure *		
		Nitrogen	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O
		50 lbs/acre	17 lbs/acre	20 lbs/acre
		*Spring applied with immediate plowdown		
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Spreading from semisolid manure9 hours			
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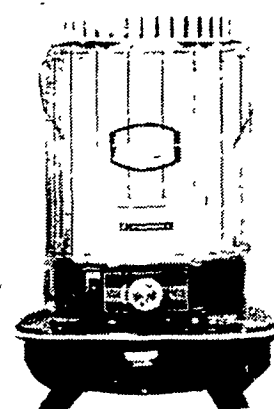
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