

Lancaster Farming

VOL. 27 No. 24

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, April 10, 1982

\$7.50 per year

State DHIA welcomes new center



Sam Smith, left, Penn State dean of Agriculture and Oliver Butler, center, president of the state DHIA board cast history to the wind, Tuesday, as they officially open the

state's new DHIA building at Penn State. Joining them in the historic ribbon cutting ceremony is Robert Patterson, right, senior vice president of Penn State.

BY DONNA TOMMELLEO
UNIVERSITY PARK — State and national DHIA officials gathered at Penn State, Tuesday, to officially open Pennsylvania's new \$290,000 DHIA building, which more than doubled the size of the previous facility, said dairy Extension head Don Ace.

George Gramling, director of field services for the National DHIA was among several guests to help commemorate the special occasion. In an exclusive interview, Gramling revealed startling facts about an upcoming national DHIA program which could have a major impact on the dairy industry. His story appears on page A32.

Although Tuesday's ribbon cutting ceremony had to compete with high winds and hopefully the last snowstorm of the year, more than 50 people braved poor road conditions to witness the occasion.

For the first time in the Association's 70-year existence, the entire DHIA operation, from receiving to lab work, is housed in one facility. In 1970, one half of the new building, which contains the lab, began operating. The completed second half includes additional computer space, offices, the meter-testing room and the receiving area.

And it seems the new building was definitely timely. In March 1982, more than 310,000 samples were tested in the lab, the largest

month in history, said Ace. The Association's 220 supervisors currently test about 6,000 herds.

The Extension chief recalled the Association's meager beginning which included just 22 farmers and 500 cows averaging about 5,000 pounds of milk, annually. In the 1940's, the state DHIA tested 49,000 cows producing about 8,500 pounds of milk a year. When the first half of the building opened 12 years ago, the Association was testing just less than 170,000 cows.

The increase in herd numbers and samples was accomplished, said Ace, with approximately the same number of supervisors.

Sam Smith, Dean of the College of Agriculture, tapped the new facility as a "tribute to cooperation," between the University, DHIA and producers. Smith said the completed building will promote "efficiency in a pleasant surrounding." Among other firsts, Smith noted that Pennsylvania was the first state to utilize computer recordkeeping.

President of the state DHIA board Oliver Butler, echoed Smith's sentiments but added that increased efficiency is a must, especially in today's economy. The Tioga County dairyman reported that key DHIA positions were lost due to retirements and a tightening budget blocked re-appointments.

According to Ray Pruss, DHIA administrative assistant, increased efficiency has become a reality in the expanded operation. Sophisticated computers have eliminated the time-consuming

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USDA says 'handle' Md. tobacco like Pa.

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN
TERRE HILL — Admitting the Lancaster County tobacco quota situation is unique, USDA officials apparently will give growers of Maryland tobacco a temporary period of grace of sorts this year.

But the key to this reprieve, which came out of a Monday morning meeting attended by several hundred growers, appears to center on how the Maryland tobacco is handled — planted, grown, harvested and marketed.

Essentially, if the Maryland tobacco is handled like Pennsylvania tobacco, which is exempt from quotas, the USDA officials see no problem.

But, particularly in the area of marketing, if significant amounts of Maryland tobacco end up in the burley trade channels, the same officials did not completely rule out quota penalties.

"It depends on what you're going to do with it," explained Thomas Von Garlem, assistant administrator of the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service.

If you handle it the same, use similar cultural practices as Pennsylvania 41 and sell it into regular channels, you won't have a problem with us."

But if too much shows up in the burley channels, there could be a problem, he still indicated.

James Davis, director of USDA's Tobacco and Peanut Division, told the growers

"If you raise Maryland tobacco and sell it as Maryland tobacco, you're running into the law."

The USDA officials also held out little hope for new legislation introduced by Rep. Robert Walker to exempt Pennsylvania from the tobacco quota program.

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Co-ops contend with spring flush

LANCASTER — Is it Spring Flush, yet? According to a few dairy co-ops, the answers are yes, no and maybe.

"We're no where near surplus levels yet," remarked Milk

Marketing Inc. manager Andy Langmyer.

"Our production was up some, but the cold spell seemed to knock it back down," he said. Langmyer explained that the large western

Pennsylvania dairy co-op still has adequate outlets through either its three major plants or cheese plants in western Pa. and eastern Ohio.

Most of the milk produced in western Pa. is shipped to MMI's Orrville, Ohio plant. Langmyer said he doesn't expect conditions to tighten until the end of May.

Dairylea spokesman Bruce Snow remarked that in the past, the back-up created by Easter weekend was always a good indication of the severity of the remainder of the flush.

"This is not the case at the moment," he said.

Snow admitted his co-op was up in production but the organization's five manufacturing plants are in no danger of running out of space.

"In fact, if someone is looking for some extra space, for a price, they can give us a call," he offered.

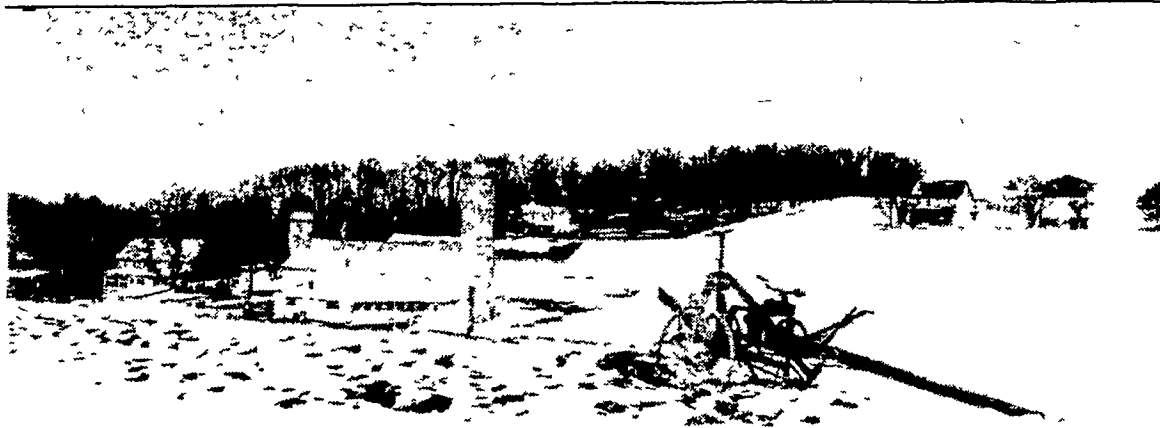
But below the Mason-Dixon line, space is not as plentiful.

R L Strock, general manager of Dairyman, Inc. Mid-Atlantic division said things are getting tight.

"We've had to ship milk out of the marketing area in varying degrees since Christmas," Strock explained.

In anticipation of this year's

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Just as another season of field activity was about to move into high gear, Mother Nature stepped in this week and caused a drastic shift in many agricultural plans. This solitary, silenced plow in the midst of a field of white graphically illustrates the results of the sur-

prise spring snowstorm and near blizzard conditions that hit many areas. Even the tillers using a plow such as this, who often get a jump on their mechanized neighbors were brought to a standstill by the unseasonable storm and cold.