

Field days in the news

Lancaster Holstein breeders climb to top

BY DONNA TOMMELLEO
WASHINGTON BORO — More than 300 Lancaster County Holstein breeders experienced life at the top, Thursday, during their annual field day at Star Rock Farms.

First, they were told that 1982 was a banner year for membership and now the Garden Spot Club boasts more members than any other black and white club in the nation.

Next, they were informed that their hosts, John and Abe Barley operate the largest registered Holstein herd in the state.

And all this took place in the largest non-irrigated agricultural county in the country.

So, for a day of enjoyment and in this case a day of celebration, the breeders turned out to test their judging skills, meet with friends and absorb more useful information about their progressive industry.

Larry Muller, dairy science professor at Penn State was the keynote speaker of the day. Muller, who specializes in dairy nutrition, told the group that successful feeding is a combination of science and art.

"Everyone has cows with the potential to produce more than 20,000 pounds," Muller said. "But to reach that mark, you have to do many things correct."

Muller explained that good feed, feed analysis and feeding systems, when working in correct balance

are the key to a successful nutritional program.

Two of the biggest changes affecting dairy rations, said Muller, are the adaptations of high moisture corn and haylage.

With haylage, farmers can expect to minimize field and storage loss and the crop has the potential advantage to contribute more protein and energy to the ration.

"The more you have, the less you have to buy," said Muller.

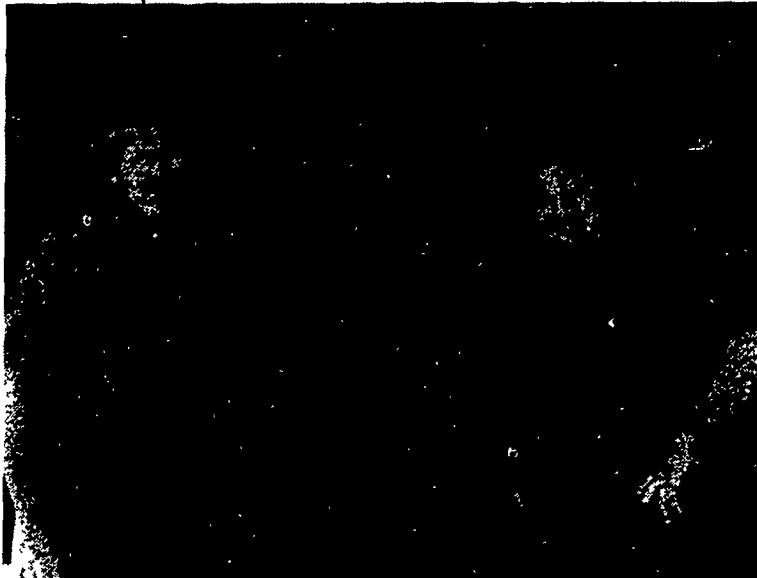
Leaning toward the science

contribution, Muller stressed the importance of feedstuff analysis.

"I feel pretty confident that most herds can increase their average 1,000 to 2,000 pounds by analyzing feedstuffs and balancing rations," he noted.

However, an optimal harvest and the correct balance must be complemented by a feeding system that distributes the correct portion of the balanced ration to all cows.

"That's the case of we know
 (Turn to Page A35)



Abe, left, and John Barley hosted the annual Lancaster Co. Holstein field day. The brothers' operation includes about 500 head of mature cows, most of which are registered and qualifies as the largest registered Holstein herd in the state.



Nathan Stoltzfus, left and Elam Bollinger placed second and third respectively in the men's division. Bob Peiffer, who topped the men's and overall judging contest was absent from photo.



Besting the women's competition at the Lancaster Co. Holstein field day are from left to right: Pauline Garber, first; Mim Kauffman, second; Mildred Groff, third.



Youth division judging winners for Lancaster are from left to right: Jim Bollinger, first; Matt Welk, second and Todd Denlinger, third.

Dauphin Co. 4-H'ers challenge breeders

HERSHEY — In what stomach does hardware settle in a cow? What percent of total solids is permitted in milk? Who classifies herds?

These and several other dairy-related questions cut through the cool summer air, Thursday night, as members of Dauphin County's 4-H dairy bowl team got a little extra practice during the county's Holstein field day.

For a short time, Frank and Ginny Graybill's farm resembled a few lightning rounds of Jeopardy. Red and green lights buzzed as 4-H'ers pitted their know-how against area breeders.

The dairy bowl team, under the direction of Bruce Kreider, county agent, demonstrated for field day visitors the workings of a dairy bowl competition. Thursday's demonstration served as a dry run for the Dauphin County youngsters who will compete in next week's 4-

H State Days at Penn State.

The field day also featured a two-class judging contest. Men, women and children had a chance to evaluate a class of first-calf heifers and a class of 3-year-olds.

Winning proved to be a family affair for a few people. Anne Kopp of Middletown came in first in the ladies division while her daughter Jayanna placed second in youth.

Elizabethtown youth Ed Huntzberger placed first in the youth division. Jim Batz of Middletown topped the men's competition followed by Ray Kennedy also of Middletown. Placing second in the ladies class was Eleanor Oellig of Hummelstown.

The breeders had a chance to tour the Graybill facilities which included a 2-year-old 109-cow freestall barn with a drive-thru feeding system, a double-six herringbone parlor and a gravity flow manure system.



Two close classes of Holsteins didn't baffle this group during the Dauphin Co. field day. Sparring wins in the judging competition are: first row, Jayanna Kopp, second place youth; second row, l to r, Eleanor Oellig, second place women; Anne Kopp, first place women; Jim Betz, first place men; third row, l to r; Ray Kennedy, second place men; Ed Huntzberger, first place youth.