

# Linde outlines South African Guernsey trip

**BY GINGER SECRIST MYERS**  
Staff Correspondent  
CLEAR SPRING, Md. — Franklin County Guernsey breeders have found a delicious way to make a dent in their milk surplus and, at the same time, provide one of the highlights of their annual summer barn meeting. While this year's event, held Aug. 6 included the traditional guest speaker and judging contest, interest also was centered on the refreshment area with ten freezers of home-made ice-cream containing five different flavors.

Hosting the event was the Seth K. Schnebly family, Crown Stone Guernseys, Clear Spring, Md. Seth, a former National Director on the Board of the American Guernsey Cattle Club, noted that the farm is a family operation which includes his sons, William and John and their wives. Their 45 registered cows have a rolling herd average of 13,600 pounds of milk and 620 pounds of butterfat and have collected a number of championship rosettes with their

excellent type. The herd has been classified regularly at 18-month intervals for the past 20 years.

Breeders were given a chance to judge that excellent type on the hoof with two classes of milk cows to place during the evening. Topping the judging competition were Robert Eckstein and Laban Garber, both scoring perfect scores in the adult division, and Nancy Myers and Crystal Benedict, placing first and second respectively in the junior division.

Guest speaker for the evening was Mille Linde, of Oxford, who spoke to the group about her travels to South Africa last March as one of five delegates from the United States who attended the Fourth World Guernsey Conference. The theme of the conference, according to Linde, was how to increase the profitability of the Guernsey cow to the individual farmer.

Linde described the customs and traditions of the apartheid society where a minority of 17 percent of the population controls all forms of business and monetary wealth



Millie Linde, left, guest speaker at the summer barn meeting of the Franklin County Guernsey Breeders, is shown with winners of judging contest, from the left, Laban Garber, Crystal Benedict, Robert Eckstein and Nancy Myers.

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including agriculture.

One highlight of the trip was attending the county's National Guernsey Show which is held bi-annually. Linde noted that show practices are very different in South Africa. While the cattle are washed for the show, they are not clipped, bagged, or fitted for the show in any other manner. Only the farm owners are permitted to show the animals and women are barred from entering the showring. The cattle are exhibited at their natural gait and are not even posed for pictures, according to Linde. The first-place animal receives a yellow ribbon followed by red for second place and blue for third place.

Linde pointed out that South African Guernseys have greatly benefitted from the genetic improvements imported via frozen semen from the United States. However, A.I. technicians are a rear breed in that country because of the great distances between the 100-200 cow herds. Herd owners do all their own inseminating, plus most of their own veterinarian work for the same reason.

Linde observed that there appears to be fewer health problems in their dairy cattle due to their feed management practices. Since the climate of South Africa is not conducive to either growing corn or storing ensiled feeds, pasture grazing makes up the major feedstuff in the dairy cow's diet. Cows must walk three to five kilometers daily to graze the lush South African pastures.

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