

Caution urged in serving raw milk to farm guests

BY LAURA ENGLAND
LANCASTER — Following a recent report concerning children who became ill after visiting dairy farms, farmers are being urged to be cautious in serving their guests raw milk.

In the report issued by the national Center for Disease Control (CDC), two cases were cited in which people became ill after drinking raw milk during field trips to Pennsylvania dairies. Those affected experienced symptoms of fever, abdominal pain, vomiting and diarrhea, the report said.

One case involved a group of 60

first-graders and three teachers who visited a south-central dairy farm, the CDC reported. Thirty-one of these visitors became ill. The second group, 43 kindergarten students and two teachers, visited a central Pennsylvania dairy, the CDC reported, and 26 of the group experienced symptoms of gastrointestinal illness.

Because of these cases, the CDC is urging dairy farmers to avoid serving raw milk to their tour groups.

Deputy press secretary Kevin Hickey said that the state Department of Agriculture also encourages farmers not to serve

raw milk to visitors due to the risk of illness.

Hickey said the department is concerned about bacteria levels, which at times, could be high. Higher bacteria levels can be attributed to the illness some people experience, he said. Through pasteurization, the

bacteria level is taken care of, he added.

Symptoms such as vomiting and diarrhea stem from coliform-type bacteria which affect the lower intestinal tract. Farmers build-up a resistance to this bacteria level, Hickey said, while others may not have this immunity.

Farmers who are licensed to sell

raw milk must meet the same standards as those set for pasteurized milk, Hickey said. The milk is tested twice monthly, and farm conditions must be kept very clean and sanitary.

If farmers are not licensed to sell raw milk, he said, they should not offer this on their farms.

Order 4 hearings open

BY HAROLD SHELLY
ALLENTOWN — Public hearings opened this week into the proposal of the Pennmarva Dairymens Federation to extend Federal Order 4 into 12 Northeastern Pennsylvania counties.

Testimony from interested parties was taken before Administrative Law Judge William J. Weber of the USDA from Tuesday into Thursday.

The Pennmarva Dairymens Federation is composed of six cooperatives — Capital Milk Producers, Dairymen Inc., the Middle Atlantic Division of Inter-State Milk Producers, Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers Assn., Lehigh Valley Farmers and Valley of Virginia.

Lehigh Valley Farmers is dissenting in the proposed change. Pennmarva's request is based on two main points — competing dealers are paying different prices for milk and milk is moving between adjacent federally regulated and unregulated markets. Competing milk dealers in Northeastern Pennsylvania thus have unequal costs because some proprietary and cooperative plants are federally regulated while others are not, according to a Pennmarva spokesperson. This results in unstable market conditions and lower long-run farm

prices, the spokesperson added. If the proposal is enacted, all handlers would pay the same price for milk used in the same manner, the spokesperson explained.

Pennmarva represents some 6300 of the 7099 dairymen in Federal Order 4. The six cooperatives had combined sales of more than \$1.2 billion during the most recent fiscal year. Collectively, they market more than 4.2 billion pounds of milk annually.

Initial testimony at the hearing was given by James Fraher, Interstate economist appearing as an expert witness for Pennmarva.

The hearing is scheduled to continue next month.

The 12 counties involved include Monroe, Northampton, Lehigh, Berks, Schuylkill, Carbon, Luzerne, Columbia, Montour, Northumberland, Union and Snyder.

Neighbors Aid Injured Woman

In the true spirit of Lancaster County, New Holland and Leola residents are pulling together to extend a helping hand to their neighbors.

Fannie Beiler, wife of Elias S. Beiler, a well-known implement dealer, was critically burned May 31 as the result of a tractor fire. Seven weeks after the incident, Mrs. Beiler remains at Hershey Medical Center.

According to Robert Martin, one of Beiler's neighbors, the hospital bills have gone past the \$100,000 mark and are still accumulating.

The Beilers, members of the Amish faith, are not insured.

Martin and other neighbors are hoping to raise about \$50,000 to pay for half of the hospital costs. They have recently started a fund for the Beilers at the New Holland Farmers National Bank. Anyone wishing to contribute may send checks to the bank, addressed to the Elias S. Beiler Fund.

For more information contact Robert E. Martin, New Holland R3.

Jersey juniors

(Continued from Page A35)

and lessons learned by the youth at this national show in addition to the fellowship and working together of the juniors is invaluable and to be chosen to go to Kentucky each year is a goal of each junior.

The coordinators for this year's seminar were Mrs. Barbara Robison and Mrs. Connie Lusk who also hosted the event on their family farm. Hugh Robertson, hoof

trimmer, and Patty McMurray, judge, received gifts in appreciation of their help and area businesses who donated prizes and food were: American Breeders Service, Atlantic Breeders Coop, Agway, 84 Wholesale, Western Flour, Bills Feed, Cavanaugh Hardware, Charleroi Foodland, Bentleyville Foodland, and Shop For Less, and Hanks Oil City.

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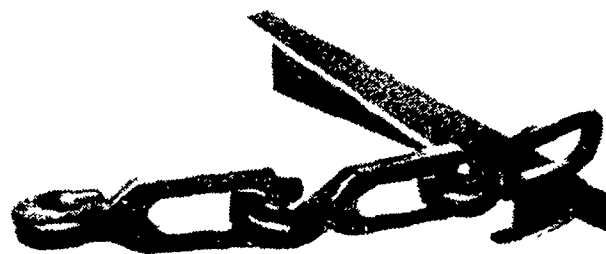
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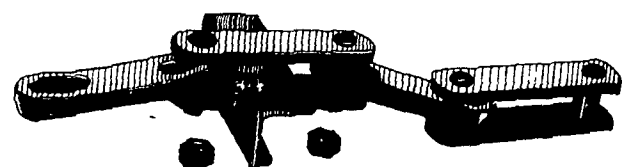
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