

# Brethren heifer auction slated Friday

LEBANON — The Brethren Disaster Relief Auction, one of the largest fund-raising events of its kind in Pennsylvania, will be held next Friday and Saturday at the Lebanon Area Fairgrounds. The auction, which last year raised over \$86,000 for disaster victims worldwide, annually attracts about 5,000 people from throughout the Eastern U.S.

On Friday, the action will begin at 7 p.m. with the auctioning of about 40 heifers. Last year, the heifer auction attracted about 200 people, and raised over \$40,000 from the sale of both grade and registered cattle.

The main auction events will be held Saturday, when handmade quilts, antiques and household items will be spotlighted. About 60 quilts have been donated by several churches within the Atlantic Northeast District of the Church of the Brethren, which sponsors the event. In most cases, the quilts are stitched throughout the year at special sewing bees, and assembled specifically for sale at the auction.

Another major attraction is arts and crafts. Here at least 25 different craftsmen will demonstrate and sell their prized handiwork. In addition, the activities will spotlight a wide variety of food, including roast pig on a spit, pot pie, turkey barbecue, plus a variety of soups, sandwiches,

homemade ice cream and baked goods.

Saturday's schedule begins at 7 a.m. with breakfast, followed by the auctioning of new and used items at 9 a.m., comforts at 9:30 a.m., and quilts at 11 a.m. It is recommended that those attending should bring their own lawn chairs.

## NEDCO advances \$1 million

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Officials of the Northeast Dairy Cooperative Federation (NEDCO) report that the cooperative has made another advance to Fultonville producers of nearly \$1 million, bringing the total to over \$3 million.

Robert Forsythe, NEDCO General Manager, says this is the only money these farmers have received since May 10th and blames the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets for "stalling" in the use of the State's Producer Security Fund which was established for defaults such as this. "The over 200 dairy farmers who never received payment from Glen & Mohawk for May and June milk are still waiting for a payment out of the Producer Security Fund," he said.

The NEDCO official maintains that NEDCO should not have to advance this money, since the cooperative is not responsible for any milk going into the Fultonville facility until June 26th, when

All proceeds from the auction are given to the Church of the Brethren Disaster Relief Fund, which last year spent \$213,100.00 to help disaster victims in California (mud slides), Missouri (floods), Illinois (tornado), Lebanon (civil war), Nicaragua (floods) and elsewhere throughout the world.

NEDCO purchased the plant from the Glen & Mohawk Milk Association. "We're doing it because the producers are really hurting now," said Forsythe. "This money should come directly from the Security Fund set up to pay producers whose handlers default."

The delay in payment by Ag & Markets, NEDCO attributes directly to a squabble between the State and Dairyalea over the amount due Dairyalea by the Glen & Mohawk Milk Association. Ninety days have gone by so far, said Forsythe, and the Department of Agriculture and Markets is still fiddling around trying to verify the losses to producers.

## Hess stresses feed TNI

PARADISE — "Most dairymen own top-producing cows and don't even know it," says John J. Hess II, of Hess Mills, in Paradise. "But they probably also own some cows that are not producing up to their full genetic potential," explains Hess, the local Purina dealer.

"When a cow's milk production is average for the herd, the dairyman assumes he has an average cow. In reality, she may be capable of producing far more milk than she does."

Hess says a number of things may prevent a cow from reaching her full genetic milking potential. Improper feeding is one of them.

"Many dairymen choose a complete feed based on its TDN, or energy content," says Hess. "While energy is a major contributor to milk production, it is not the only one. Protein, minerals and vitamins and the interaction of all nutrients are important as well."

In order to maintain milk persistence in the future, breeding efficiency, body condition and metabolic function must all be taken into consideration, Hess claims. "That's why Purina Dairy

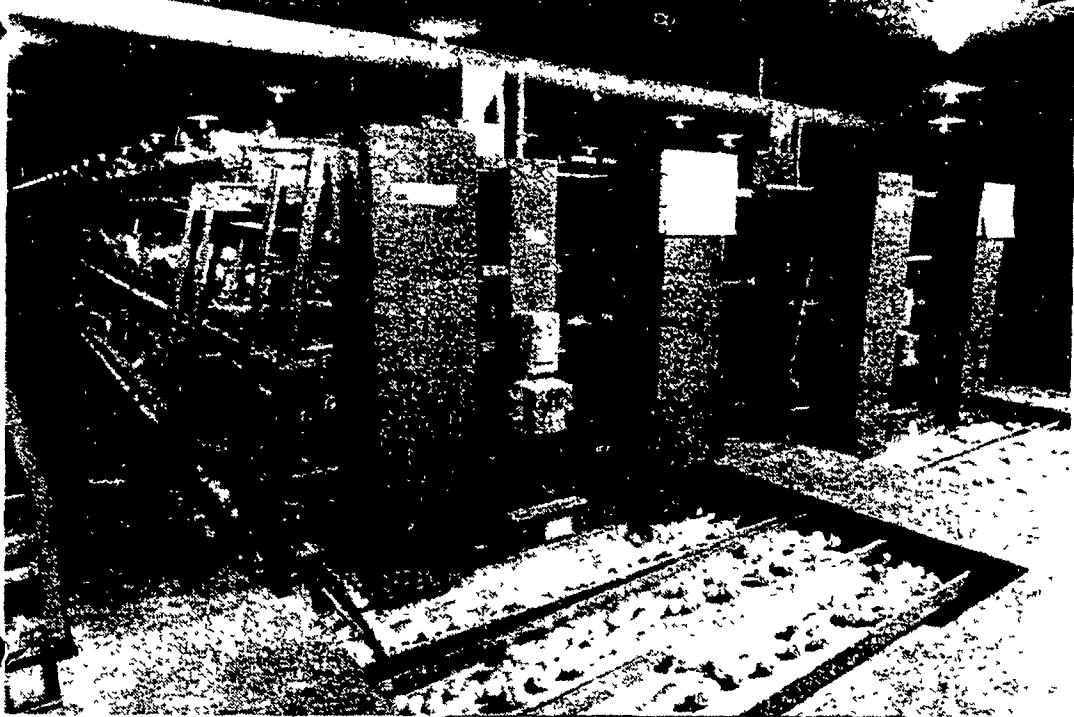
Researchers have developed the Total Nutritional Index, a comprehensive rating system for our complete feeds," says Hess. "TNI evaluates rations on each of the above criteria, providing a more realistic indication of their long-term milk-making capabilities."

According to Hess, a ration's current capabilities are also important, because of the direct correlation between short- and long-term milk production. Hess cites research showing that each one pound increase in milk production at the height of lactation yields an additional 200 to 250 pounds of milk later in the same lactation.

"In other words," Hess explains, "when a cow peaks higher than she has in the past, her milk production in later lactation will also improve."

Hess reminds producers that even small increases in milk production bring a cow closer to her full genetic milking potential. That's important, Hess concludes, "because in this day and age, dairymen can't afford cows that don't earn their keep."

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