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Ron Kopp, Middletown dairy farmer, faces TV cameras and explains his problems with discarded cans and bottles, including the loss of a top producing cow.



Spend 5 cents to save a cow

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

MIDDLETOWN — The year of 1976 was a memorable one for agriculture.

It was the Bicentennial Year and tributes were pouring out for the "embattled farmers who fired the shots heard round the world" and founded a nation 200 years before.

Agriculture was booming and machinery companies quit running equipment ads because they didn't want to create any more demand that they couldn't fill.

The machinery that was available was allocated to dealers and farmers scrambled to snap it up.

But for Ron Kopp, dairy farmer located just off Rt. 283 near the Pa. Holstein farm, it was memorable from another standpoint.

On June 17, 1976, he lost one of his best cows to hardware disease.

"I came out in the morning and she was just lying there," he recalls.

"In the haylage in the feed bunk we found a shredded can

"She hadn't been ill so it must have been the only cause.

"She was one of our best producing cows."

Kopp recalled this painful memory at a press conference Wednesday convened by the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association to drum up support for the mandatory deposit beverage container laws that have been introduced in the Pa. House and Senate.

Kopp, who farms with his brother, Jay and father, Howard, hasn't lost any cows since then, but he's had continuing problems with cans and bottles.

Recently, he had to replace a front tractor tire and have a rear one repaired due to bottles. The direct cost was about \$150, plus downtime on the equipment and lost time in the fields.

"The other day I was out in the

field and saw this car going by with someone hanging out the window," he said.

"The guy winged a bottle at the speed limit sign along the field. They like to throw them at the signs."

Kopp and Keith Eckel, PFA president, walked along the road next to the exercise yard, and collected a variety of soda and beer cans and bottles for the television cameras at the on-farm press conference.

"It would almost pay me to hire someone to just pick these things up," Kopp remarked.

Eckel explained the purpose of the proposed law now in effect in several states that requires a five-cent mandatory deposit on beverage containers, particularly soda and beer cans and bottles, to discourage roadsides and farmers' fields from being the garbage can for passing drinkers.

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Congratulations

Pa. Dairy Princess

Tamara Lynn Cree

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Suffolk named Ephrata winner

BY LAURA ENGLAND

EPHRATA — it may have been raining cats and dogs at the Ephrata Fair Wednesday night, but a stylish group of lambs competed for top awards despite the constant downpour.

Under a roof with two open sides, the rain threatening to dampen the entire show arena, 13-year-old Heidi Fisher lead her 112-pound Suffolk lamb to the championship title.

A daughter of Bill and Dee Fisher, East Earl, Heidi won the overall honors for the first time. She raised her champion lamb as a junior agriculture project at Garden Spot High School. An eighth grade student, Heidi is a member of the seventh and eighth grade Ag Club.

Capturing reserve market lamb laurels was 15-year-old Lori Martin, Narvon. A member of the Grassland FFA Chapter at Garden Spot High School, Lori competed in the contest for the first time this

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Heidi Fisher, East Earl, poses with her 112 pound Suffolk lamb which was named grand champion at the Ephrata Fair Sheep Show.