

Six Chester County dairymen honored at DHIA banquet

BY TRISH WILLIAMS

GUTHRIESVILLE — Each year dairymen in the United States increase average annual milk production per cow by 100 pounds, quite an accomplishment. Yet the genetic potential exists to increase production by 400 pounds per year.

These facts were conveyed to Chester County dairymen Thur-

sday night at their 25th Annual DHIA Banquet at the East Brandywine firehall. Making the presentation was Bill Heald, Penn State Extension dairy specialist.

"A few dairymen in Pennsylvania have increased milk production as much as 1000 pounds per year," said Heald. "These large increases were accomplished by great im-

provements in management. DHIA is one of the best tools available for dairymen to make production advancements."

DHIR enrollment has been increasing, but the testing method that has been most rapidly picking up enrollment is AM-PM testing, according to Heald.

Many purebred dairymen question the merit of AM-PM testing, Heald noted. But this testing method provides the dairymen with a wealth of information for herd management, and the best genetic progress is made through grade cattle.

"We will see the most dramatic change in the dairy industry in the next five to seven years," projected the specialist. "You and I will have to learn to change the way we think. We cannot continue to do things a certain way because that is the way we've always done them."

"One of the greatest challenges of the future will be to learn to deal with more data and to take that data and respond more quickly. This may mean getting your daughter or wife involved in the records system, or for the larger herds, putting the data on a farm

computer for rapid retrieval. It is estimated that by 1990, 80 percent of the dairy farms in the United States will have an on farm computer," concluded Heald.

Cheryl Fairbairn, Chester County Extension agent, addressed the group. "Rumors have been flying around lately that with the cost-price freeze dairymen will be caught in the coming year,

many dairymen may be inclined to dropout of the DHIA program. That would be a tragic mistake. The DHIA program is the key to economic success," she said urging dairymen not to become DHIA dropouts.

Mrs. Fairbairn has assumed the role of "substitute dairy agent" in the County since Tom Dowling left (Turn to Page A38)



Production award winners for herds averaging over 750 pounds of fat were, left to right, Bob Pepple, John S. Stoltzfus, and Alan Mason representing H & R Mason.



The new directors for the Chester County DHIA are, left to right, Ben Kauffman, Glenn Freese, and Steve Mason.



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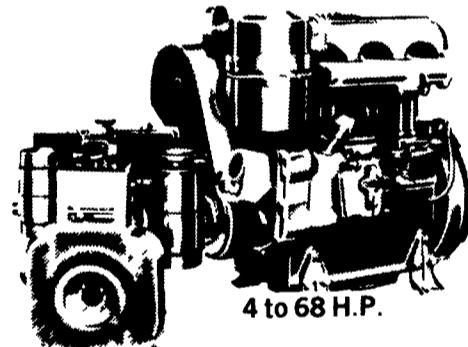
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