



Mim and Bob Kauffman stop to answer a question about their dairy herd during a tour of their farm Wednesday. Mim and Bob hosted a luncheon for the PFA Women's Committee and the Women's Legislative Exchange.

Women Meet to Discuss Mutual Concerns

BY KIMBERLY HERR

RHEEMS — Problems and concerns facing the family farm today are not so different from those that non-farmers face.

Acting on that premise, the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association Women's Committee, in cooperation with Mim and Bob Kauffman, hosted the Pennsylvania Women's Legislative Exchange, which is made up of women representing various organizations that are concerned with legislation.

The Women's Legislative Exchange was treated to lunch at Mim and Bob Kauffman's dairy farm in Rheems. During their visit, the members learned of the concerns facing the Women's Committee of the Pa. Farmers' Association (PFA) and they also learned a bit about farming.

"We are interested in anything that concerns farming," Joyce Sankey, president of the PFA women's committee, told the group of about 25 women. "And I know we have a lot of the same concerns that you women have."

Mrs. Sankey explained that some of the issues PFA is concerned with are energy, health, insurance, marketing, rural crime and welfare programs, just to name a few.

The women from the Legislative Exchange represented such groups as the Pa. Commission for Women, Lutheran Coalition on Public Policy, Pa. Association of Extension Home Economists, Pa. Home Economics Association, Pa. Federation of Women's Clubs, Pa. Coalition Against Rape and the Council of Catholic Women.

The discussion prior to lunch centered around topics such as soil conservation, the declining number of family farms, loss of farm land and foreign investors buying up farm land.

Mim Kauffman shared her knowledge of farming with the women.

"We (the farm family) work together as a unit," she said. "It is our business, and it has changed over the years. The farmer feeds a lot more people today than when we were children. If a farmer is not efficient and a good businessman, he is just not going to make it."

After the luncheon, the women were treated to a tour of the farm, although rainy weather prohibited them from seeing much except for the barn and milking parlor.

The Kauffmans have 80 registered Holsteins milking and about 80 to 100 young stock. They farm about 300 acres.

Mim explained to the women that having registered cows "makes the whole business quite



Christi Burris, who helped cater the luncheon, serves fresh fruit to Sylvia Bailey, from the PFA Women's Committee. Mary Sweigart also helped cater the luncheon.

interesting," as you get involved with breeding the best cow you possibly can.

The Kauffman's prefix for their cows is Penn Springs, and Mim explained that women could tell which cows had been bred on their farm by whether Penn Springs appeared on the card above each

cow's stall.

In concluding the tour, Mim told the women that dairy farms are producing too much milk and that a united force was needed to correct the problem.

"We have a terrific product," she said. "We are just not getting out strong enough with our story."

Horseradish Adds Zing

NEWARK, Del — If you're a home gardener with a taste for hot foods, consider ordering a few horseradish cuttings from your favorite seed catalog, suggests Delaware Extension Garden and Home Improvement Agent Willie Adams. Plant them later this spring, and by the time cold weather returns you'll be ready to prepare pungent horseradish dips, relishes, and sauces.

Horseradish root is grown commercially in Delaware. Commercial producers usually grow hybrid horseradish, while home gardeners often select

Bohemian variety, Adams says.

For the home garden, choose cuttings the thickness of your middle finger and about 8 or 9 inches long. Plant them in a sunny spot, in well prepared, well drained sandy loam soil, at a 45-degree angle to the bed or row. Planting can take place from late April until mid-May. With proper cultural practices, the roots should be ready to dig in late fall or early spring.

One note of caution: Have a glass of ice water handy the first time you taste your grated horseradish root.

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