

# 4-H, FFA dairy judging slated at Penn State

UNIVERSITY PARK — Dairy Science Club members at Penn State are getting ready for their major event of the year — the 59th Annual Dairy Exposition. Spread over several weeks in April, the exposition features judging contests next Saturday, the Penn State Dairy Princess Contest April 18, and "Show Day" April 28 featuring fitting and showing contests.

The judging contest set for Saturday, April 7, will feature 4-H and FFA clubs from throughout the state. Chairperson Alan P. Kozak, Penn State senior in dairy production from Washington, and assistant chairman William Zollers, junior in dairy production from Mertztown, will bring together 12 official judges to place classes and score oral reasons.

The judges are all Penn State alumni working in the dairy field. Included are Jeffrey Harding of Brookville; David Castrogiovanni

of Montrose; Lloyd Pease, Dale Oliver, Carl Anderson, and Richard Hess of Lancaster; Warren Poage of State College; Richard Packard and Steven Neely of Wilkes-Barre; and James McMurray of West Alexander — with two more to be appointed.

The judging contest will be comprised of four divisions: 4-H, FFA, collegiate amateur, and collegiate professional.

Registration April 7 begins at 9:30 a.m. at the Dairy Barns at University park, with the contest starting at 10:00 a.m.

Contestants will judge eight classes representing the five major breeds — Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, Holstein, and Jersey. 4-H and FFA members will give oral reasons for two classes, while professional collegiate members will give reasons for four classes. Amateur collegiate members will not have reason

classes.

All contestants will be given 12 minutes to judge "place only classes" and 15 minutes for reason classes.

Individual and team winners in each division will receive awards

at the conclusion of the Dairy Exposition at an awards banquet April 28, sponsored by the Dairy Science club.

Any interested 4-H and FFA clubs who were not contacted may

register the day of the contest for an entry fee of \$3.00 per person. 4-H participation is limited to eight contestants per county and only eight contestants per school for FFA participation.

## Fire sweeps Bucks County farm

BY JACK HUBLEY

QUAKERTOWN — Aided by strong winds, a fire swept through the Bucks County farm of C. Wilmer Mood and family early last Saturday morning, causing an estimated \$200,000 damage to buildings, equipment, feed and livestock.

Originating in faulty wiring leading to a mercury vapor security light, the fire began on one end of a 100-cow dairy barn housing Windy Spring Farm's

Arctic Cat snowmobile business.

Fire from the 30 exploding snowmobile gas tanks ignited the surrounding meadow grass and quickly spread to an adjacent 120-foot, two-story barn housing livestock.

About 18 cows and calves in Mood's beef operation died in the blaze, with an additional five animals destroyed later due to lung damage.

Awakened shortly before one a.m. by a call from tenants

Elizabeth and Jeff Weierbach, also residing on the farm, Mood turned off the electricity and rushed to the barn. Succeeding in opening one door, Mood glanced over his shoulder to see the house roof ablaze. Situated some 300 feet downwind of the two barns, the home's wooden shingle roof was quickly ignited by flaming debris.

Mood turned from the barn and ran back to his house, leading his wife, Donna, and four children, ages three to nine, to safety.

Attempts by the Weierbachs to gain access to the livestock were unsuccessful, and resulted in Mrs. Weierbach being treated for smoke inhalation.

Firemen from Milford Square as well as five other companies arrived at the scene, 1½ miles north of Spinnerstown on Myers Road, in time to halt the fire's advance on the home and Mood's grain dryer, and finally gained control of the blaze after a three hour battle.

Structures destroyed or damaged in addition to the two barns include a milk house, wooden silo, and a storage shed located on the opposite side of Myers Road.

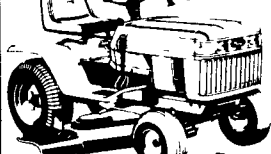
Equipment and other losses include two tractors, two tractor-mounted sprayers, a grinder-mixer, more than 400 bales of hay and straw, seed supplies, and about four tons of feed.

"I thank God for the safety of my family," Mood said, adding that friends, neighbors and local churches have done much to ease the impact of the disaster.

In addition to Windy Spring Farm's beef cow/calf operation and snowmobile business, Mood plants the farm's 110 acres, as well as an additional 400 acres, in corn, soybeans, wheat and hay crops.

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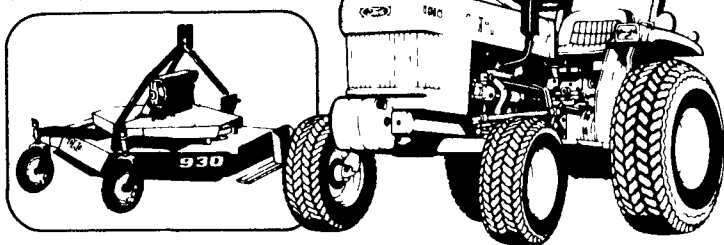
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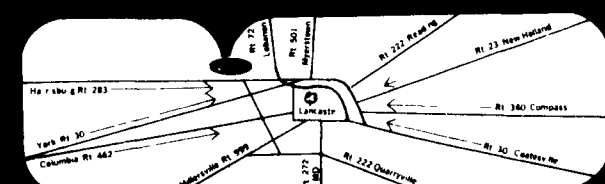
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