

# Lancaster FFA'ers put their taste buds to the test

**BY LAURA ENGLAND**  
**LANCASTER** — Lancaster County FFA members put their taste buds to the test Wednesday morning as they judged samples of milk, cheese and cottage cheese during the county's annual dairy products judging contest held at Penn Dairies Inc., Lancaster.

Approximately 35 students from the Ephrata, Garden Spot, Lampeter-Strasburg, Lancaster Mennonite, Manheim, Penn

Manor, Pequea Valley and Solanco High Schools spent the morning taste-testing 10 samples each of milk, cheese and cottage cheese. In addition, they completed a 30-question written test and judged sediment cards for milk quality and cleanliness.

The students' scores, which included a numerical rating of the product and a description of the product's quality, were compared to those prepared by Dan

Hamilton, quality control director for Penn Dairies. A total 570 points was possible, however, the winners were those with lower scores - the best individual ratings at 100 points or less.

The top 10 individual dairy products judging winners each scored below 100 points. First place went to Greg Kerdeman, a sophomore at Manheim High School. A first-time dairy products judge, Kerdeman scored 80 points. Tim Herr, a junior at Solanco High School, was second with 83 points, while teammate Tracey Landis, also a junior, was third with 90.

The other top 10 winners, from fourth to tenth, were: Tom Wiker, Pequea Valley; Billy Martin, Ephrata; Dave Fisher, Garden Spot; Mike Hershey, Pequea Valley; Mike Cassel, Manheim; Neal Benedict, Manheim; and Karen Shertzer, Lampeter-Strasburg.

In team competition, it was the combined talents of Tim Herr, Tracey Landis and Fritz Frey which earned the championship trophy. Representing Solanco High School, the trio scored 275 points. Second place went to Ephrata High School, with 326 points, and third to Penn Manor with 328.

For its win, the Solanco team received a rotating trophy,



Dan Hamilton, right, quality control director for Penn Dairies Inc., presents the first place dairy products judging trophy for Solanco FFA members, from left, Tim Herr, Tracey Landis and Fritz Frey.



Ready to sample dairy products are individual winners, from left, Greg Kerdeman, Manheim, first place; Tim Herr, Solanco, second place; and Tracey Landis, Solanco, third.

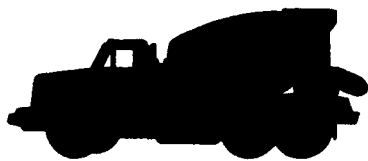
sponsored by Penn Dairies, which it will keep until next year. A school winning the contest for three consecutive years keeps the trophy permanently.

In both the milk and cottage cheese contests, the students tasted samples demonstrating qualities of oxidation, rancidity, foreign material, garlic and onion taste, high acidity, saltiness, flatness and bitterness as well as normal quality samples.

For the cheese contests, the

students were given a list of 14 cheese varieties. They then had to identify 10 samples correctly. These included mozzarella, processed American cheese, muenster, swiss, provolone, cream cheese, monterey jack, sharp cheddar, mild cheddar and colby cheese.

The individual and team winners of the county contest will advance to state competition slated for June during the FFA Summer Convention.



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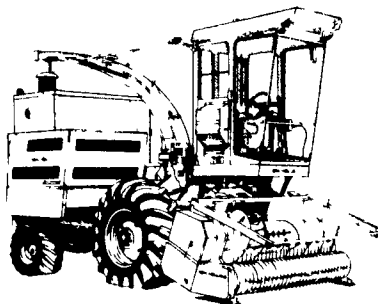


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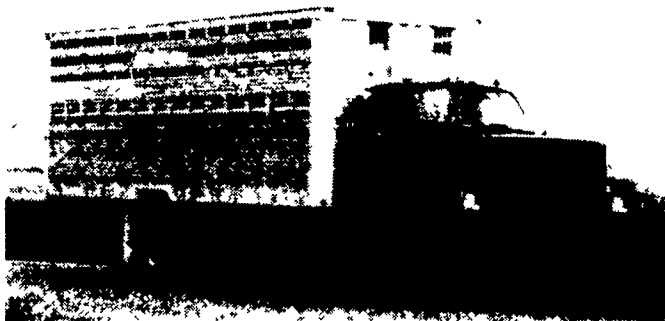
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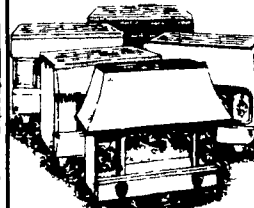


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