

New dairy group stresses higher standards

BY ROBIN PHILLIPS
Staff Correspondent

HAMBURG — The idea was voiced several times last summer. "We need a joint organization of owners of "high solids" breeds of dairy cattle so that we can work together on some of our problems," was a statement frequently made at Southeastern Pa. fairs and shows when breeders got together.

Recently, Dr. Robert Dreisbach, R3 Hamburg; William Zollers, R2, Mertztown; and Robert Smith, R1, Annville, met and initiated the first organizational meeting with breeders of Holstein, Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey, and Jersey cattle. With no official name yet, the joint organization met at the Indian Fort Inn, Hamburg, on Wednesday, April 25th. Thirty-eight breeders from Berks and Lebanon counties attended.

Pleased with the interest shown, Dreisbach, a Jersey breeder, opened the dinner meeting with introductions around the room. The guest speaker was Guy Crews, assistant secretary, National All-Jersey, Inc., Columbus, Ohio. Crews is a leading advocate for

end product pricing and higher standards for milk.

"I think we should make end product pricing & higher standards one of our first goals," stated Bill Zollers, Guernsey breeder and one of the principal organizers of the new association. "It's something that could help all of us," he stated. With every breed except Milking Shorthorn represented, breeders discussed making higher standards and protein pricing for milk one of the priorities of the new organization.

"I can show you from tests that there has been a 25% difference from market to market. I can't think of a better argument for higher standards," Crews stated.

"California is the only state where you can be guaranteed a higher quality milk," Crews continued.

According to this leader from the American Jersey Cattle Club, the big growth in sales in California came when the standards were increased to: 8.7% SNF (solids not fat) in whole milk, 9% SNF skim milk, and 10% SNF on any other item.

"A two percent butterfat and a ten percent SNF product tastes

better than any thing else. It is an excellent product," Crews stated. "If we'd raise our standards to those of California, we'd use 500 million pounds of powder a year."

The biggest opponent to higher standards are the milk processors, according to Crews. Saying that it will raise the price to consumers, the processors do not want to test the results of a better bottle of milk. According to Crews, it has been proven that raising the standards will increase sales. He stated that one processor has revealed that since he raised the solids not fat in his product there has been a steady growth in sales. "SNF affects the taste buds three times as much as butterfat," Crews told breeders.

Fifty-nine percent of milk samples taken from grocery shelves do not meet the minimum standards, according to Crews. Currently at 8.25% in Pennsylvania, the SNF percentage in milk is below what is naturally produced. "There's not a breed of cows or goats that has an average of 8.25%, they're all higher," Crews stated. "The national average is 8.6%."

"It doesn't make any difference

what breed of cows you have. I don't draw the line at any breed," Crews continued. "If you have a feeding program and a breeding program that makes a better product, this will help the problem," he said. With Holsteins producing 90% of the milk, Crews added, "we need the support of those people."

"I'm afraid too many of us have let others do our thinking for us," he stated. He avidly encouraged each breeder to write their congressmen about these problems and push for legislation for higher standards and end product pricing. "I'm fearful that the next move in congress is going to be one that hurts pretty bad," he continued. "If there is not a bill pending in Pennsylvania, there ought to be. We owe it to ourselves." "Get the bills introduced," he told the dairy farmers. We must get somebody's attention and push for a uniform, better tasting product, Crews repeated throughout the evening.

Crews spoke to breeders on the renewed "push" of the American Jersey Cattle Club to implement higher standards of milk and a component pricing system

nationwide. There are several bills supporting higher standards in the legislature now Boxer HR 3178 and Harkin HR 4441, which he urged breeders to support.

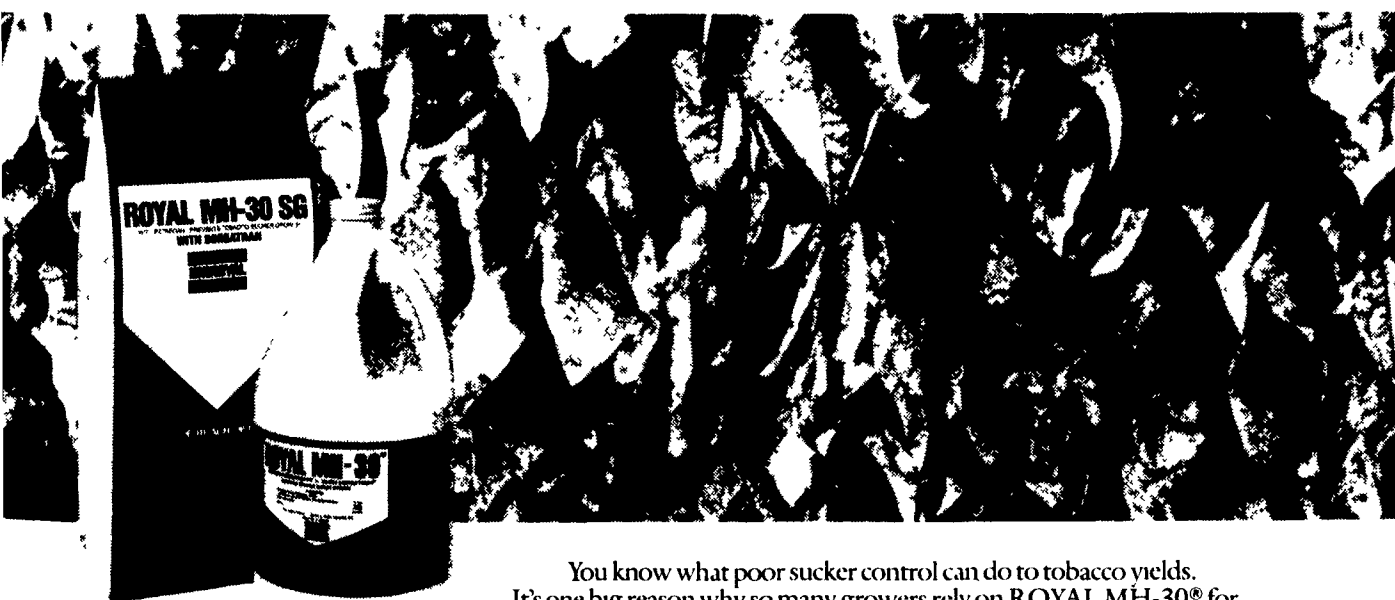
Following the talk from Crews, Dr. Dreisbach initiated the election of officers. Bill Zollers, R2 Mertztown, was elected president with Robin Phillips, R1 Mohrsville, vice president and Robert Smith, R1 Annville, secretary-treasurer. A committee of directors with each breed represented was also selected. They are: Heather Hernley, R2 Lebanon - Ayrshire; Clarence Mase, Lebanon - Brown Swiss; Carol Hollenbach, R1 Bernville - Guernsey; David Bitler, Fleetwood - Holstein; Gary Kurtz, Fleetwood - Jersey; and Phyllis Yoder, Shoemakersville - Milking Shorthorn.

Bill Zollers concluded the meeting by asking breeders to think of a name for the organization. "We will begin with Lebanon and Berks (counties) and try to extend to southeastern Pennsylvania," he stated of the new association. The possibility of a future calf sale of all the colored breeds to be made available for 4-Hers looking for project animals was also discussed.

Any breeder wanting more information on the new organization and the next meeting date should contact Bill Zollers, R2 Mertztown.



Effective, systemic sucker control, that's dependable.



ROYAL MH-30®
Years of
field proven
control.

You know what poor sucker control can do to tobacco yields. It's one big reason why so many growers rely on ROYAL MH-30® for top systemic sucker control — year after year.

So effective, one ROYAL MH-30 application at mid-to-full bloom can control suckers all the way to harvest. So consistent, it performs under nearly all kinds of growing conditions.

For the dependable sucker control you have relied upon year after year, ask your ag chemicals supplier for ROYAL MH-30 liquid or ROYAL MH-30 soluble granules. For your program, it's the standard for systemic sucker control, offering better yields, quality and returns. Uniroyal Chemical, Division of Uniroyal, Inc., Naugatuck, CT 06770

Bettering your bottom line.

UNIROYAL



PROWL®. GUARANTEED CONTROL OF TRIAZINE-RESISTANT PIGWEED.

PROWL® herbicide gives you control of pigweed, including those types that have become resistant to some other herbicides.

And you can get PROWL right now at the lowest cost ever. See us and get guaranteed control of grasses and major broadleaf weeds, including triazine-resistant pigweed.

DO NOT incorporate PROWL in corn. Always read and follow label directions carefully.

CYANAMID
Agricultural Division
Wayne, NJ 07470

PROWL. YOUR BEST HERBICIDE VALUE.

**SEE YOUR
LOCAL DEALER**