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Lancaster Farming

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The N.E. cannot be the N.E. without ag

Message from forgotten country kids on the block

See 'Rodney Dangerfield' editorial on A10.

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN
REHOBOTH BEACH, Del. —
"The Northeast cannot be the
Northeast without agriculture."

In this statement by George
Dunsmore, Ag Commissioner of
the State of Vermont, lies the
essence of a meeting of ag
secretaries from 10 Northeastern
states in Rehoboth Beach this
week.

Dunsmore uttered the simple but
highly meaningful statement in a
review of the major problem that
the Northeast faces in the federal
ag arena.

This problem centers on a need
for realization by Washington that
agriculture is THE MOST IM-
PORTANT BASIC industry of the
Northeast and agriculture from
Maine south through Delaware
must be better recognized and
served by Washington.

"We must have regional
recognition of agriculture,"
Dunsmore said.

"Here in the Northeast, we must
form an ag coalition that we can
be heard as one.

"Or else, we're never going to be

heard and achieve what we need in
the 1985 Farm Bill."

Dunsmore, whose round,
cherubic face belied the hard-
hitting message he had for the
USDA and others in Washington,
also said:

Energy

"Anyone who thinks that the
energy problem has gone away is
asleep. We're just in a short lull of
good times on energy problems.

"\$2.50 gas is coming; it's not that
far away.

"We must maintain an ag base
anywhere we can. That makes ag
in the Northeast all the more
important for the future."

Environment

"We must be more sensitive to
the substances we're using in
farming and must make more
prudent use of them.

"Or else, we're going to be
without them one day if we don't
smarten up.

"We fall down in education; we
must tell consumers more about
the benefits of the proper use of
chemicals."

Marketing

"Commodity programs must
become just an under-girding for
farming and a lot more attention
must be paid to marketing and
promotion by Washington to im-
prove the price of ag products.

"We need cross-compliance of
better management with com-
modity programs, including
milk."

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My, all you fellow dairy
farmers, if you'd like an
Original Otis, check the
free offer on the Editorial
Page -- A10."



Participants in Northeast Ag Secretaries Conference at
Rehoboth Beach, Del., include, from the left, Arthur R. Brown
Jr., ag secretary, New Jersey; Penrose Hallowell, Penn-
sylvania; and host Donald J. Lynch, Delaware.

Part III - In twilight

(Editor's Note: There comes a
time in every profession - dairying
included - when it's time to pass on
the reins to a younger generation.
Today, Laura England, dairy
editor of Lancaster Farming,
visits a Dauphin County farm
where such a transition is taking
place. But while operational roles
may change, one thing stays the
same - as Calvin Mauser of
Elizabethville demonstrates - you
never lose interest in the future of
dairying).



DAIRY'S FUTURE

Whatever it holds, it's in your hands

BY LAURA ENGLAND
ELIZABETHVILLE — With 37
years of farming under his belt,

Calvin Mauser is no stranger to all
the pleasures and glories, as well
as the trials and tribulations, that

combine to make a dairyman's
life.

As a farmer, Calvin has seen and
experienced it all. He has reaped in
the pleasures of owning a "show
place" farm that houses a top-
notch herd of cattle. At the same
time, he has struggled with his
health and readily admits that he
wasn't blessed with an abundance
of money. There were times, too,
when the weather and other out-
side farm elements refused to
cooperate and made daily life just
a little difficult.

But now, looking back over those
37 years, Calvin knows he wouldn't
have changed a thing. He has
reached his goal. "All I ever
wanted was a beautiful farm and a
beautiful herd of Guernseys, and a
good herd of Guernseys."

Calvin Mauser, who this January
turned over the dairy operation to
son, Terry, began his farming
venture in 1947 after serving in the
Army. It was then he realized his
future was in farming.

"I did not feel I was a
professional soldier," he said,
"despite the fact that I came out as
a captain. My heart was in the
farm."

During his service duty, Calvin
knew where his heart belonged,
and it was then that he started
planning to take over the family
farm. His first step was to save
money.

"I was as tight as I could be,"
Calvin said, "and I saved every
cent I could." This meant staving

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With the farm operation in the capable hands of his son, Terry, Calvin Mauser R1
Elizabethville, says he can't keep away from the Guernseys

"We all know that milk is not the
#1 drink. "It's our own fault."