

Dairy cooperatives select 1984 'Young Cooperators'

BY LAURA ENGLAND
HAGERSTOWN, Md. — Approximately 40 young dairy couples from Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia competed Wednesday and Thursday to earn the right to represent their milk cooperatives as 1984 Young Cooperators.

Participating in the annual Pennmarva Young Cooperator Program, held at the Ramada Convention Center, Hagerstown, dairy couples representing Dairyman Inc., Inter-State Milk Producers and Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers competed for the Young Cooperator (YC) titles. During the two-day competition, the contestants attended cooperative meetings and participated in individual interviews.

Selected to represent their individual cooperatives as YC's were Bob and Ruthie Gruber, Keameysville, W.Va., Dairyman Inc.; Gordon and Carole Hoover, Gap, Pa., Inter-State Milk Producers; and James and Bonnie Weddle, Hagerstown, Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers. John and Kathy Renn, Frederick, who are completing their second term as Young Cooperators for Capitol Milk Producers, were also recognized at the awards luncheon Thursday.

Others placing in their respective contests were: Dairyman Inc. - Skip and Susan Roach, New Windsor, and Martin Heaps, Fawn Grove, Pa.; Inter-State Milk Producers - Earl and Kim Mills, Sharpsburg, Kathy Strock, Mechanicsburg, Pa., Mike and Janet Mowrer, Spring City, Pa., and Ed and Debbie Zug, Peach Bottom, Pa.; Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers - William and Jeanette Hunsberger, Davidsville, Pa., and Steven and Carolyn Linton, Martinsburg, W.Va.

Although each cooperative coordinates its own program, the Young Cooperator program is designed to recognize and develop leadership among cooperative members, usually under age 35. Prior to the YC contest, the contestants meet with their cooperatives and receive a briefing on the purpose and im-

portance of cooperatives.

Throughout the upcoming year, the Young Cooperator winners will attend state and national meetings. Among these are the National Milk Producers Federation meeting, the American Institute of Cooperatives meeting and the Pennsylvania Association of Farmers Cooperative meeting.

The winners for each cooperative were selected by a panel of three judges. The judges were as follows:

Dairyman Inc. - Joy Meyers, former dairy extension agent, Rising Sun; Joe Hazlegrove Jr., former Young Dairyman, dairy farmer in Farmville, Va.; and Dr. Donald Hegwood, Dean of the College of Agriculture, the University of Maryland, College Park.

Inter-State Milk Producers - Jane Benner, former vice president the National Young Cooperators, Millerstown, Pa.; David Lee, county agricultural agent, Woodstown, N.J.; and John R. Walker, assistant division manager of Milk Marketing Inc., Washington, Pa.

Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers - Donald L. Ace,



Selected to represent their respective cooperatives are this year's Young Cooperator couples, from left, James and Bonnie Weddle, Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers; Gordon and Carole Hoover, Inter-State Milk Producers; and Bob and Ruthie Gruber, Dairyman Inc.

Professor Emeritus of Penn State Dairy Extension, State College, Pa.; Robert J. Beiter, marketing

specialist on agriculture economics, the University of Maryland, College Park; and

James P. Townsend, former president of National Young Cooperators, dairy farmer, Manquin, Va.

Weather cooperates with strawberry growers

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania strawberry growers began to harvest their crop, and the weather cooperated as the state reported six days suitable for fieldwork during the week ending June 17, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. Activities included plowing; disking; spraying; hay making; and final plantings of corn, soybeans, potatoes and tobacco.

Topsoil moisture was rated short by 16 percent of farm reporters, adequate by 79 percent and surplus by five percent. Thirteen percent of the northern reporters rated soil moisture short, 81 percent rated it adequate and six percent rated it surplus. In the central region 28 percent considered the moisture short, 67 percent felt it was adequate, and five percent gave a rating of surplus. All farm reporters in the southern region

considered soil moisture adequate.

Good weather conditions pushed corn planting to 95 percent complete, ahead of last year's 90 percent and equal to the five-year average of 95 percent. Northern producers had 93 percent of their corn planted, central producers reported 96 percent planted and the southern region had 95 percent of the corn crop planted.

Statewide soybean plantings reached 76 percent, ahead of the 70 percent planted last year. The northern region led with 83 percent planted, and the central and southern sections were close together and 75 and 73 percent soybeans planted, respectively.

Tobacco transplanting was 77 percent complete, far ahead of last year's plantings of 52 percent.

Commonwealth wheat producers reported 77 percent of their crop in

the headed stage with six percent turning yellow. Last year, 76 percent was headed and ten percent turning yellow at this time. The northern region had 60 percent of their wheat headed with none turning yellow. In the central region 92 percent was headed and none turned, while the southern section had 70 percent of the wheat crop headed and 19 percent turning yellow. A few southern wheat growers are beginning to harvest their crop on a limited scale and are reporting some diseases such as septoria, leaf stripe and rust. Some southern region wheat fields are lodged due to high winds and heavy rains.

Statewide, barley was 39 percent headed and 44 percent turning yellow. At this time last year, 57 percent was headed and 37 percent turning yellow. Northern growers

reported 34 percent headed and 29 percent turning yellow. In the central region 61 percent of the barley crop was headed with 31 percent turning yellow. The southern barley crop reached 14 percent headed and 74 percent turning yellow. Some southern producers have begun to harvest their barley crop.

At the end of last week, ten percent of the oat crop was headed, slightly behind last year's level of 12 percent and seven percent of the crop turning yellow at the state level. The northern and central sections reported seven and four percent headed respectively, while the southern region reported 32 percent of the oat crop as headed and 20 percent turning yellow.

First cutting of alfalfa was 60 percent complete, ahead of last year's cuttings of 52 percent.

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