

## Dum addresses Lebanon County Holstein members

BY LAURA ENGLAND

ANNVILLE — Speaking farmer to farmer, Perry County dairyman Thomas Dum III advised Lebanon County dairymen Thursday night to be realistic in reaching high rolling herd averages and to do more research in selecting sires for artificial insemination programs.

As guest speaker of the annual Lebanon County Holstein Association Field Day, Dum cautioned the dairymen not to "put yourself in a position that you're so proud of your higher herd average" that you begin culling cows that have potential as milking animals. Many good cows, he added, are culled when trying to reach higher production averages.

Dum, who with his wife Shayne and five children farm Dumbelle Farms, Landisburg, also told the 200 dairymen to research the studs they are using in their herds.

"You owe it to yourself and your integrity to do research and select your studs," he said.

In doing so, the results of the mating rest solely on the farmer's shoulder and are not the responsibility of the AI technician, Dum said. He added that individual farmers should be responsible for the failures or successes of herd breeding.

"You're the one who controlled that mating," Dum said of farmers selecting their own studs, "and you've got to take the lumps if you've made mistakes."

When selecting sire studs, Dum said it is helpful to look at the Predicted Difference (PD) rating, but a farmer must also consider other breeding traits. He suggested to question not only what the bull does right but what he does wrong.

"Do not only breed numbers," he said, "but breed cows."

As a farmer with an extensive merchandizing and embryo transfer (ET) program, Dum said

that many farmers question the breeding of too many outstanding cows through ET which could possibly jeopardize a balance between cow types.

"The ET program can only enhance the good ones (cows) we have," he said, adding that more good plus cows are in the breed than anything else. This trend should continue, he said.

In addition to serving as guest speaker, Dum also served as the official judge for the field day's cow judging contest. The judging classes included a group of 2-year-olds, a group of 3- and 4-year-olds and a class of aged cows.

The approximately 160 judging contestants were divided into four

groups. Winners in the Youth Under 13 class were Stephanie Wagner, Cindy J. Smith and Krystal Sellers. Youth 13 to 19 winners were Brian Meyer, Gary Bixler and Karl Brandt.

Women's division winners were Elene Hitz, Irene Mase and Thelma Hostetter. J. Calvin Zimmerman topped the men's division, followed by Nelson Troutman and Frank Graybill.

The field day was hosted by Hoover Farms, Anville. The 130-milking cow operation is run by brothers Dale, Dean and Reed Hoover. The rolling herd average is 18,000 pounds of milk and 680 pounds of fat. The brothers also feed out 300 steers each year.



Winners in the Lebanon County Holstein Association judging contest are, from left, Stephanie Wagner, Elene Hitz, Brian Meyer and J. Calvin Zimmerman.



Guest speaker and official judge Tom Dum III, with microphone, explains his placings in the Lebanon Holstein Field Day cattle judging contest.



Lebanon County Dairy Princess Ellen Hanson, left, serves milk to members of the Lebanon County Holstein Association.

## Lancaster Guernsey Breeders hold annual field day

BY LAURA ENGLAND

QUARRYVILLE — Despite the hot and muggy Thursday afternoon weather, approximately 70 Guernsey breeders put aside their daily chores to attend the annual Lancaster County Guernsey Breeders Field Day.

Hosted by the Richard Breneman family, Quarryville, the Guernsey enthusiasts were treated to an afternoon of cow judging contests, presentations by guest speakers and a catered pig roast

luncheon.

The day's events began with the judging contest officiated by Jane Pepple, a Chester County dairyman. Although a few disagreements in class placings were noted, the judging contestants were content with Mrs. Pepple's official placings.

Winners in the youth division were Joe DeLong, Quarryville; Janice Garber, Willow Street; and Kurt Breneman, Strasburg. The women's division winners were

Thelma Garber, Willow Street; Joyce Wagner, Quarryville; and Elsie Wolf, Quarryville. Men's winners were Peter Witmer, Willow Street; Jim Diller, Willow Street; and Don Breneman, Strasburg.

Following the judging contest and the catered lunch, the dairymen were given an up-date on the dairy situation by Jim Fraher, an economist with Inter-State Milk Producers Cooperative. Fraher told the group that more difficult times are ahead, but the industry will see some positive changes.

On the supply/demand side of the situation, Fraher reported that milk production in the United States is declining and was down four percent in June compared with production levels a year ago. Some marketing areas, he added, are still seeing an increase, but nationally a decrease of 2.5 to 4.0 percent is predicted.

An adjustment on the supply side is occurring, Fraher said. Cow numbers are down and production per producer per day is declining. Balancing this on the demand side, commercial sales are up and are showing a six percent increase over last year, Fraher said.

Although noting positive changes, the dairy industry problems are not over, Fraher said, and farmers should count on a 50-cent drop in support prices in April. Government purchases of milk in 1983 totaled 12 million pounds, Fraher said, and the government wants to purchase less than five million pounds.

Another change in the industry Fraher discussed was multiple component pricing. With this system, milk components protein and solids-not-fat (SNF) are considered when setting the price

paid to individual producers.

Fraher explained that a "big move to component pricing" is occurring in the Midwest where the producer is paid a premium for protein and SNF produced above a certain base point. The premium paid to these producers comes from other producers, Fraher said.

The National Milk Producers Federation is developing a component pricing plan as well, Fraher

said. With its plan, the NMPF will consider protein, SNF and fluid carrier in setting a premium.

The reality of component pricing, Fraher said, is that differences in premium systems are seen. He said that Inter-State is studying component pricing, also, and favors a system that compiles the value per pound of component where "some farmers will get

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Lancaster County Extension agent Glenn Shirk, left, discusses the dairy situation with economist Jim Fraher, Inter-State Milk Producers Cooperative.



With official judge Jane Pepple, left, are winners of the Guernsey Breeders cattle judging contest Peter Witmer and Thelma Garber.