## **Dean's host Butler County Twilight meeting**

## **BY BARBARA RADER**

CHICORA - Approximately 165 Holstein breeders and interested persons recently attended the annual Butler County Holstein Twilight meeting hosted by Ro-Ann Haven Farm, owned by George and Peggy Dean, Chicora. Featured guest speaker Jud

Heinrichs, Penn State University Extension dairy specialist, enlightened the group on "What We Have Learned About Raising Replacements," focusing on four key factors – measuring progress, handling changes, measuring results and then making necessary changes. Farm management techniques under this program include good record keeping, looking at growth, good health programs, changes in feeding and ventilation needs.

The key, Heinrichs explained, is to take these results over a period of time, study them and then make additional changes, which in the end boils down to dollars.

The Dean family was the first to enter the program of measuring and weighing its heifers and calves under the direction of Robert Rugaber, Butler County Extension agent. Rugaber, conducting extensive research and promotion of the program, has over 200 dairy, farms and some 6,300 calves and heifers recorded with the state.

The county's program is one of the most talked about topics, and stories on the program have appeared in state and national farm publications. Since Butler County began the program, adjoining counties Indiana and Erie have adopted the same.

Dairy judging, under the direction of Butler County Extension agnet Curtis Hughes, with the assistance of Penn State graduate Lisa Cooper, tested the ability of the Holstein dairy members. Prizes, donated by local farm businesses, were awarded to eight overall winners.

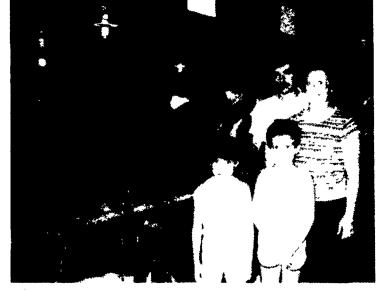
followed by a three-way tie broken by guessing the weight on one cow. The remaining junior winners were Melissa Wilson, Harold Rader Jr. and Carolyn Shiever. Becky Moser headed up the senior division, followed by Ken Scheidemantle, Jim Zeidler and Luella Gallagher. These last three placings were also determined by a tie-breaker.

Leadsmen for the 2-year-olds

and the aged cow classes were Janice Schultheis, Chuck Stephenson, Larry Lang and Jeff Kennedy. Schultheis, Stephenson and Lang are employed by Ro-Ann Haven Farm. Susan Fox, Lawrence County Extension agent served as the official judge.

Janet Jones, the 1983 Butler County Dairy Princess, gave an update on happenings of the Milk

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Butler County Twilight meeting hosts George and Peggy



Guest speaker Jud Heinrichs, Penn State University, and Lawrence County Extension agent Susan Fox compare notes during the Butler County annual Twilight meeting.

