

Luzerne honors top DHIA producers

WILKES-BARRE — The Luzerne County Local of the Pennsylvania Dairy Herd Improvement Association held its 55th annual meeting on Nov. 15. The Local finished the year with 28 herds on test including 20 DHIA herds and 8 Owner-Sampler herds. Special recognition was afforded several county dairymen at the luncheon meeting which was highlighted through a talk on milk marketing by Lackawanna County Agent Thomas Jurchak.

Honors for high herd in butterfat production went to the 55 cow Holstein herd of Robert Hough, R1 Stillwater; with 691 pounds and an average milk production of 18,110 pounds per cow. The Pecora Brothers Dairy Farm, R1 Drums:

had high herd in milk and protein. Their 161 Holsteins produced an average 18,622 pounds of milk, 687 pounds of butterfat, and 612 pounds of protein.

Most improved herd average by milk and protein was awarded Hillside Farm, R7 Shavertown; for increases of 2,053 and 65 pounds respectively, while Pecora Brothers showed improved butterfat of 66 pounds. High cow for milk was 60 pounds from the William Dagostin & Son herd, R1 Berwick; with a 305 day production of 28,128 pounds. Pattie 1 from the Robert Hough herd was top butterfat producer at 1,105 pounds, and #72-1597, a Pecora Brothers Holstein captured top protein honors with 861 pounds.



Directors of the Luzerne County Local DHIA are shown seated, left to right, William Conyngham, R7 Shavertown, Secretary-Treasurer; David Stull, R1 Plymouth, Vice President; Jeanette Yost, R2 Wapwallopen. Standing: James Cook, Lehman; Larry Baron R2 Shickshinny; Carl Troxell, R6 Lehigh; Robert Hough, R1 Stillwater, President; Ralph Sands, R3 Wyoming; and William Baucher, DHIA Supervisor. Absent: Donald Gregory.

Herds finishing the testing year with DHIA averages over 600 pounds of butterfat include:

Owners Name And Address	Breed	Average No.	Lbs. Milk	Lbs. Fat	Lbs. Protein
Robert Hough RD1 Stillwater	RH	54	18110	691	587
Pecora Bros RD2, Drums	R&Gr H	160	18622	687	612
Hillside Farms Inc RD7, Shavertown	RH	90	17413	644	557
Wm Dagostin & Son RD1, Berwick	R&Gr H	108	16043	627	541
George R Taylor RD2, Shickshinny	R&Gr H	26	15877	613	530
Rampant Farms RD6, Lehigh	RH	27	15942	612	503
Larry Baron RD2, Shickshinny	R&Gr H	60	15591	606	522
Carl E Troxel RD6, Lehigh	R/Gr H	68	16067	600	616

Dec. 7 is no-till ticket deadline

YORK — Ticket sales will close Dec. 7 for the 11th Mid-Atlantic No-Till Conference to be held Dec. 19 at the York County Fairgrounds. The event attracts farmers from the states of Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia, and West Virginia.

John Shearer, Franklin County Extension director and conference chairman, pointed out that tickets are available from county Extension Service offices in the six states. Shearer affirmed that "no luncheon tickets will be sold at the door."

A large number of agricultural

firms will exhibit no-tillage products at the conference in Memorial Hall at the York Fairgrounds. Memorial Hall will open at 8 a.m. on December 19 so farmers can examine various equipment before the speaking program starts at 9:30 a.m., Shearer indicated.

The chairman added that 10 speakers will present the latest information on no-till farming during the morning in Old Main at the fairgrounds. Following lunch at 12:15 p.m., a "Quiz the Experts" session will provide an opportunity for farmers to have questions

answered by the program participants.

One of the featured topics will describe the problems and possible solutions of soil compaction caused by no-till farming methods. This will be presented by Dr. Donald Griffith, Purdue University agronomist.

Dr. John Ayers, Penn State plant pathologist, and Dr. Erik Stromberg, plant pathologist at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, will discuss potential disease problems in no-till corn and alfalfa. Dr. Morris Decker, University of

Maryland agronomist, will present information on cover crops for no-tillage farming.

Dr. Nathan Hartwig, Penn State agronomist, will discuss controlling perennial weeds in no-till corn, and Dr. Douglas Beegle, Penn State Extension agronomist, will present information on starter fertilizers for no-till corn.

Dr. Tony Mazzaccaro, assistant director of the Marine Advisory Program, the University of

Maryland, will give a perspective on the Chesapeake Bay cleanup and its relation to farming practices.

Also during the morning program will be a panel discussion on no-till alfalfa systems that work. Participants will be David Brower, a farmer from Marshall, Virginia; Wayne Harpster, a farmer from Spruce Creek, Pennsylvania; and Dr. Lester Vough, agronomist at the University of Maryland.

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