

# Profit is focus of Penn Jersey Dairy Meeting

BY JACK HUBLEY

NEW HOLLAND — Higher quality means lower cost. That was the message delivered by Wernersville-area dairyman, Forrest Stricker, at Penn Jersey Products Inc.'s dairy meeting held at the Liberty Fire Hall in New Holland on Feb. 27.

Speaking to an audience of 135 farmers, Stricker pointed out that harvesting high quality alfalfa at a lower fiber level is one way to keep feed costs down.

"To stay as efficient as possible we've got to get more nutrients out of our alfalfa so we don't have to supplement as much grain," he emphasized.

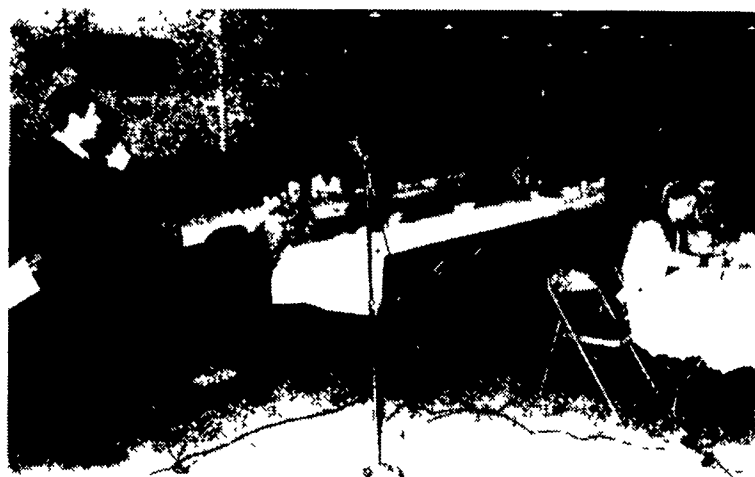
Stricker, who milks 50 cows and farms 60 acres of alfalfa and 120 acres of corn, advised farmers to

aim for a 35-percent ADF (acid detergent fiber) content by harvesting their alfalfa at the right time. The "right time", according to the dairyman, is at the bud stage for the first cutting, and at the late bud stage to the first sign of flowers for later cuttings.

But Stricker also cautioned that soil type will have an effect on fiber level. The heavier soils found in Lancaster County will promote faster growth and fiber development than soils found elsewhere in the state, so cutting schedules should be tailored to the region where the crop is grown.

Stricker himself relies on four cuttings, maintaining that a fifth cutting not only puts undo stress on plants, but also means more wear and maintenance on equipment.

An advocate of total mixed rations, Stricker does his own ration balancing for his high, medium and low-energy ration program. His high-energy ration includes 69 pounds haylage, 19 pounds shelled corn and six pounds of supplement. The medium ration contains 43 pounds haylage, 11 pounds high-moisture shelled corn, 15 pounds corn silage and one pound soybean meal. The low-energy ration consists of 30 pounds haylage, 30 pounds corn silage and five pounds high-moisture shelled corn.



Wernersville dairyman Forrest Stricker discussed quality alfalfa production with more than 100 farmers at Penn Jersey's Dairy Meeting on Feb. 27.



## BUSINESS NEWS...

### P.L. Rohrer hosts customers at appreciation dinner

SMOKETOWN — Farmers should take a closer look at no-till farming and should consider using no-till instead of conventional tillage to conserve soil, John Stimpert of Chevron Chemical Company told a group of farmers this week.

The approximately 130 farmers he was addressing had gathered at the Good N' Plenty Restaurant in Smoketown Monday for a customer appreciation dinner sponsored by P.L. Rohrer and Bro. Inc. Of the farmers present about half indicated that they were using the no-till method and Stimpert challenged the remainder to talk to their neighbors and become acquainted with the practice.

Stimpert explained that conventional tillage contributes to soil erosion, while the no-till method of planting helps conserve soil.

An inch of topsoil can be eroded during the course of one thunderstorm, and it will take 1,000 years to replace that soil. "It's a serious situation," he said. He suggested using good cover crops

with the Farm Bill in 1985 will be with us for a long time," he said. McCrea said he would like to see legislation that separates crop support and income support programs.

"I am convinced," he continued, "that it is very, very important for farmers to let it be known how you feel about these programs."

But no matter what Washington decides to do with the Farm Bill in this crucial year, "strong market-oriented farms are going to survive," he said.

A number of Rohrer's customers also gave testimonials about the success they have had using Ortho Unipel fertilizer. The farmers said they were especially pleased with the handling and uniformity of the product.

Potato farmer Lawrence King said: "I like the quality of Unipel fertilizer and it's quality that's important to potatoes."

LANCASTER — Lancaster Ford Tractor will sponsor a pedal tractor pull on Mar. 14, at 7 p.m. To be held in the dealership's large shop area located at Rohrerstown and Flory Mill Roads, the event will feature young competitors between the ages of three and nine years old.

Patterned after the "real thing", the pedal pull employs a miniaturized moving weight box and pedal tractors. Youngsters huff and puff to pull weights of up to 150 pounds to the finish line 60 feet away.

Tractors will be provided by the dealership, and four age classes will be recognized: three to four, five to six, seven to eight and nine years of age.

Registration will be taking place from now, up to and including the day of the pull. Classes will contain up to 15 to 20 competitors.

All participants will receive a token award, with prizes going to all class winners. Pull coordinator Larry Groff encourages all parents to sign up their children in advance.



Youngsters ages three to nine are invited to compete in Lancaster Ford Tractor's Pedal Tractor Pull on Mar. 14.

### ABS to test four Pa. bulls

DEFOREST, Wisc. — Four young Pennsylvania bulls have been selected by American Breeders Service to enter their Progeny Testing Program.

The bulls are Plushanski Aussie-ET, and Plushanski Jetson Tron-ET, both bred by Plushanski Farm Inc., of Kutztown; Singing-Brook S-W-D Tiptop-ET, bred by Singing Brook Farms of Imler; and Brooks-Twain Perry Enchancer-ET, bred by Walter Brooks, of Brooks-Twain Farm in Springville.

The bulls have been moved to that company's facilities at

DeForest, Wisconsin, where they will join approximately 200 other bulls being tested this year. During testing they will be mated to 700 cows in herds associated with ABS in their testing program, from all across the United States. After a four-year wait, during which all progeny will be evaluated, a decision will be made as to whether or not the bulls will enter into regular semen production.

ABS is the nation's largest A.I. organization and supplies semen to each of the 50 states and to over 65 foreign countries.



## Two Pa. dealers receive top I.H. award



MARCO ISLAND, Fla. — Messick Farm Equipment, Inc., Elizabethtown, and Erb & Henry Equipment, Inc., New Berlinville, were recently honored for achieving the highest level of excellence attainable by an International Harvester agricultural equipment dealer for 1984. These dealerships are two of the top 50 in the U.S. to reach "Gold Award" status in International's "XL Excellence in Performance" program.

For their accomplishments, Bob and Marie Messick of



Messick Farm Equipment, and Butch and Sharon Clauss of Erb and Henry attended a four-day session in Marco Island, Florida.

During their stay, the couples were presented with International's most distinguished award, a limited edition pewter trophy of the McCormick Reaper.

At left, Marie and Bob Messick receive their award from IH vice-chairman Pat Kaine and his wife Patsy. At right, Sharon and Butch Clauss of Erb & Henry receive their award.

and no-till planting for the best soil conservation results.

In the near future, Stimpert predicted, "We will be no-tilling a large percentage of our acres."

"There's no reason why we can't no-till all our crops," he continued, explaining that by no-tilling crops farmers can conserve soil, water, labor, fuel and time, resulting in increased profits for the farmer.

The earthworm activity resulting from no-till is also beneficial, he said. The no-till method leaves earthworm holes intact, increasing the flow of water and nutrients to crops.

On the other hand, conventional tillage, he said, destroys soil structure, reduces soil aeration and water filtration and capacity. And, soil compaction from conventional tillage reduces yield by restricting root growth and reducing nutrient uptake.

The farmers also heard a message from Peter McCrea, marketing manager at Chevron Chemical Company, who stressed the importance of 1985 in the future of farming.

"Whatever Washington does