

East meets West ... on Lancaster County dairy farms

LANCASTER — Three high-ranking Russian agriculture officials toured three southeastern Pennsylvania farms on Wednesday as part of an attempt to renew scientific and technical exchanges between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

The Soviet officials, who hold positions roughly equivalent to an agency head in this country's Department of Agriculture, toured the dairy operations at Triple G Farms outside of Denver, Len-Lyn Farms in Schoeneck, and the swine farm of Wilbur Lutz, Sinking Spring, Berks County.

And, whereas the Russians were reportedly not impressed with an earlier trip to U.S. research facilities, they were said to be pleased with their reception at the farms they visited.

Dr. Aleksandr Konygin, head of the Soviet agency in charge of international agricultural relations, said he was most impressed with the "farm to table"

operation at Triple G.

Arthur, Steve, and Doug Graybill, members of the Triple G operation, conducted the tour of their facilities, taking them through the free stall barn, dry cow housing, heifer raising areas, and the double-eight milking parlor.

Then the group was lead through Triple G's milk processing plant, which prepares milk for sale in the Triple G market next door. The Soviets expressed interest in the U.S. trend to market whole, 2 percent, skim, and chocolate milk.

At Galen Crouse's Len-Lyn Farms, the Soviet visitors were particularly curious about Crouse's use of embryo transfer in his Holstein herd.

Konygin expressed particular surprise when told one cow in the Len-Lyn herd which has a phenomenal 4.8 percent test and 26,000 pounds milk. Crouse has a rolling herd average of 18,500 pounds milk and 700 fat.



The Soviet officials were well-read on the extensive use of embryo transfers in top U.S. Holstein herds. They recorded the production records of some of Galen Crouse's top cows as they toured the Len-Lyn barn.



Dr. Aleksandr Konygin, department chief for international programs in the Soviet department of agriculture, asked some specific questions about dairy nutrition during his visit to Triple-G Farms, Denver. Here, Konygin examines the feed and milk replacer that Steve Graybill, right, feeds the Triple G calves. Lancaster County Extension Agent Jay Irwin, center, looks on.



The three Soviet agriculturalists carefully took notes as Galen Crouse explained the embryo transfer work that he has conducted with his Len Lyn herd.

Auction to raise money for Dauphin County Ag Center

HARRISBURG — The future Dauphin County Agriculture and Natural Resources Center is the theme for a consignment auction being held today at the Gratz Fairgrounds.

The auction is part of a project to raise half of the \$500,000 needed to construct the Dauphin County Agriculture and Natural Resources Center. The Dauphin County board of commissioners has already committed \$250,000 for the construction of the Center to be located at the intersection of Routes 325 and 225 in Middle Paxton Township.

According to Merv Adams, member of the auction committee, "Farm tractors, tillage, planting, harvesting and numerous other pieces of farm equipment will be available at the auction."

Items of interest to land and homeowners include hardware,

small tools, plumbing and building materials, chain saws, and lawn and garden tractors. Other items include hay and straw, field lime, 2-4 yard lots of premixed concrete, and three ten ton loads of stone.

Adams further stated, "The auction will have items of interest to farmers, landowners, and homeowners."

Ron Kopp, also a member of the auction committee, stated that "All of the equipment and items are being sold on consignment or have been donated to the auction on behalf of the fund raising effort for the Ag Center." He further added, "The overall interest in the auction and the future Center has been tremendous."

The auction will start at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 13th, at the Gratz Fairgrounds, Route 25, in Gratz. Refreshments will be available at the auction.



Doug Graybill, left, explains the milk processing plant to the Soviet visitors. The farm to market operation was particularly interesting to the agriculturalists.