

## "Come Alive in '85" is theme for Jersey meeting in June

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Jersey breeders from across the United States will gather June 16-19 in Lancaster, for the 117th Annual Meeting of the American Jersey Cattle Club and the 27th Annual Meeting of National All-Jersey Inc.

The meetings and events will be headquartered at the Americana Host Farm Resort in Lancaster. Pennsylvania Dutch hospitality will highlight the four days of meetings, awards, farm tours, entertainment and sales.

The NAJ Board of Directors will meet Sunday morning, June 16, with the AJCC Board of Directors scheduled to meet that afternoon. Registration for those attending all functions will begin Sunday afternoon. A dinner theater presentation has been scheduled for Sunday night.

Monday, June 17, will be a day of tours featuring a visit to an Amish homestead in the morning. The afternoon tours will bring stops at four leading Jersey herds in the area. A family style Pennsylvania Dutch dinner will top off the evening.

Tuesday, June 18, will begin with the National All-Jersey Breakfast. Featured speaker will be Carl Wolf, President of First World Cheese Associates, the national distributor of Jersey Pride Natural Cheese. The NAJ Annual Meeting will follow the breakfast.

Tuesday afternoon will see 50 of the top pedigreed Jersey heifers from across the nation offered in the 28th Annual National Heifer Sale. The sale will be held at the Solanco Fairgrounds, Quarryville, Penn.

The AJCC Annual Jersey Breeders Banquet on Tuesday evening will honor retiring AJCC Executive Secretary James F. Cavanaugh with the AJCC Distinguished Service Award.

Wednesday morning, June 19, will start off at the AJCC Awards Breakfast, where the seven winners of the AJCC Young Jersey Dairyman Award will be honored. This year's winners are: Dean and

Chris Blackhurst, Pleasant Grove, Utah; Dennis and Cheryl Cline, Waterville, Iowa; Ed and Cheryl Ettinger, Mocksville, N.C.; Roger and Anita Marcoot, Greenville, Ill.; Bill and Kathleen Schaeffer, Acme, Wash.; Richard and Paula Schlotterbeck, Lewisburg, Ohio; and Dan and Connie Schweigert, Tremont, Ill.

Events will conclude with the AJCC Annual Meeting on Wednesday morning. Newell Mills, Fallon, Nev. will be presented with the AJCC Master Breeder Award.

For further information, contact: The American Jersey Cattle Club, P.O. Box 27310, Columbus, Ohio 43227-9987. Phone 614/861-3636.

Or, in Pennsylvania contact: Donald Koontz, 3016 District Road, Fredonia, Pa. 16124. Phone 412-376-2884.

## Policy and rural areas

NEWARK, De. — Short-term government assistance to farms stressed by high interest rates and heavy debt is a subject of heated debate today, both in Congress and around the nation.

The interdependence of farmers and their communities is one factor which is often overlooked in these debates, according to University of Delaware extension community resource development

specialist Daniel S. Kuennen.

"Off-farm income is keeping many farmers in business," he says. "Net farm income dropped almost 50 percent from 1981 to 1983. During that time,

off-farm income amounted to about six and a half times as much as government payments, even with increased payments through the PIK program. A farm that stays in business remains an active part of the local economy. When other businesses in a rural community fail due to agricultural losses, off-farm income may in turn be endangered, creating a negative spiral."

Currently, conditions are worst in the Midwest, where farm-based banks and Main Street businesses are closing in great numbers. Twenty-five of the record 79 banks that failed last year were farm banks. The plight of mid-western farmers and its effect on the local economy have lessons for other parts of the U.S., Kuennen says.

For instance, more than a third of Delaware's farmers report working 200 days or more off the farm. Statewide, farm households had an average income of just over \$25,700 in 1980. Of that amount only \$9,000, or 35 percent, came from farming. "Some Delaware farmers depend on the diversity of their income," Kuennen stresses.

Medium-sized farms with annual sales of \$40,000 to \$200,000 appear to be the hardest hit nationally by the present economic crisis. The average Delaware farm fails easily within this range, at about \$126,000 gross sales per farm in 1983, according to Delaware Department of Agriculture statistics.

The farm and the community depend on each other. Government payments to farmers have increased considerably in recent years, Kuennen says, but still represent a relatively small portion of farm household income. Off-farm employment, on the other hand, brings in an amount greater than the net farm income, both nationally and in Delaware.

Rural businesses depend on the financial health of farmers to survive, Kuennen says. Rural development and farm policy should reflect this interdependence.

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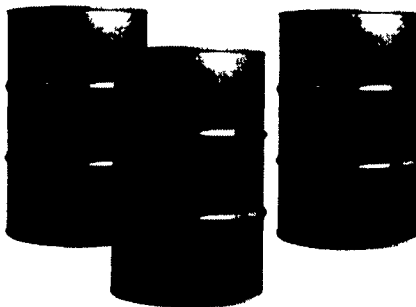
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