

Cambria Co. wins national conservation education award

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Cambria County Conservation District in Ebensburg, has been awarded First Place in the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)/Deutz-Allis Conservation Education Awards Program, it was announced recently.

"They tried everything they could think of," judges said citing the award-winning district. Because of their exemplary efforts in conservation education, the district was asked to implement a six-week environmental education program at one of the district high schools. "This was the ultimate in achievements," said district chairman Ted Hoover, pointing out that this was the first time ever in Pennsylvania that a course was offered every day for six weeks to the same group of students — a major step in conservation education.

"The hit-and-miss approach is not enough to develop awareness and appreciation, and most importantly, a concern for our natural resources," Hoover said. The Cambria program bears out

this philosophy, and their commitment is evident. The district has an active conservation program involving 13 separate school districts in the county which continues throughout the year. They have distributed 2500 trees to schools for Arbor Day programs this year, many of which will be planted on strip mined areas. Through outdoor trails and learn-

ing centers, conservation libraries, environmental workshops, programs for teachers, the handicapped, and senior citizens, the district runs an outstanding program almost 365 days a year.

Representatives of the district will be recognized at the NACD Annual Convention February 2-6, 1986, in Nashville Tennessee. They

were chosen from seven regional winners representing 2,950 conservation districts across the United States.

Second Place in the National contest went to the Douglas County Conservation District in Lawrence, Kansas.

The NACD/Deutz-Allis Conservation Education Awards Program is open each year to all

conservation districts in the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Objectives of the awards program are to foster awareness and appreciation of the value of conservation education and to stimulate efforts by teachers and conservation districts to advance the wise use, protection and enhancement of the nation's soil, water and related resources.

Decline in cow numbers to continue

COLLEGE PARK, MD. — The exit of dairy herds has been a well discussed and documented phenomenon within the total farming sector for many years, but especially since 1945.

The decline from the peak of over 25 million milk cows in the national dairy herd toward the 11 million milk cow level in 1975 was the result of two major on-farm changes.

First, the trend away from subsistence milk production activities and second, the trend toward larger commercial milk

herds on a vastly smaller number of farms resulted from the dispersal of herds which produced milk for commercial shipment, but which generated low levels of milk sold annually per full-time worker equivalent and low levels of net value product per year.

As the average milk sold per cow and the average number of cows handled per worker on individual dairy farms increased, the average value of labor productivity increased on the surviving dairy farms.

This trend toward ever higher

average levels of milk sold per worker employed in the milk production sector was accompanied by a major displacement of dairy farm workers.

The total market for raw milk supplies was only 115 billion pounds of milk in 1973-1975 compared with 118 billion pounds in 1942. The static national milk market in the U.S. resulted from a larger population base that consumed a lower average quantity of milk and milk products per capita.

Since the 1975 period, milk cows

numbers have essentially stopped declining nationally (10.8 million low point) even though individual milk cow herds have been sold and some surviving milk cow herds have continued to grow in size.

The long-term trend toward higher milk sold per cow was temporarily halted in 1984, but it is expected to continue into 1986 and 1987 and perhaps beyond if grain feeds and protein meals remain abundant and low in price relative to milk product prices.

Most agribusinesses and land-grant universities are geared toward raising average milk sold per dairy cow. However, ways must be found to reduce total numbers of milk cows in the national herd to restrict national milk output yet, at the same time, individual dairy herds and farms can improve average productivity per worker.

This type of industry production adjustment would mean fewer dairy farm workers as well as fewer commercial dairy farms in future years.

Economic policy analyses to date have frequently utilized supply responses which ignore the costs of labor and management resource transfers and unemployment, as well as the expenses of human skill development for integration into the non-dairy farm sectors of the economy whether off-the-farm or in on-farm activities such as crops with beef production to utilize pastures and forage crops produced in the usual crop rotations.

The provision of some type of long-term dairy cow herd "buyout" program may be incorporated into the final version of the 1985 farm bill currently moving slowly through Congress. The probable details of the herd "buyout" program should become available before the end of 1985. The provision could permanently reduce the number of U.S. dairy herds and eliminate the current surplus production of milk.

Mastitis report

KALAMAZOO, IL — A mastitis management report on methods of mastitis prevention and treatment is now available from The Upjohn Company. This is the third in a series of mastitis reports.

This report covers cost of clinical and subclinical mastitis, the benefits of preventing mastitis as well as management and treatment methods using Albady Plus, Biodry and Albacillin.

Also included are ideas from a veterinarian who works with producers to reduce mastitis with the goal of improving their profit margin; a report from a producer who recently had a major flare-up of mastitis and his methods of recovery; and a testimony from a producer who is a long-time practitioner of mastitis prevention.

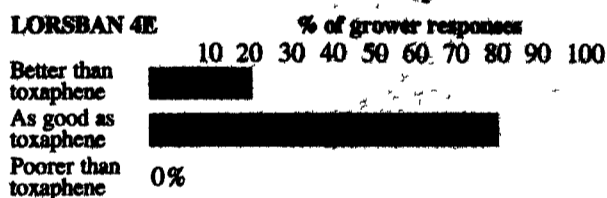
For a copy of this report, or for more information, write Mastitis Management Report 3, The Upjohn Company, P.O. Box 5087, Kalamazoo, MI 49003-5087.



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