

## Cornell honors dairy leaders

ITHACA, NY — A dairy farmer and an executive with a New York State dairy cooperative have been honored by Cornell University for their contributions to the state's dairy industry and Cornell's dairy research and extension programs.

Nelvin B. Empt of Freeville and William T. Underwood of Tully received the Awards of Merit from the Department of Animal Science in the New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell.

J. Murray Elliot, a professor and chairman of the animal science department, presented the awards during Cornell's annual "Dairy Days" conference this month.

"Each, in his own way, has helped the dairy industry a great deal," Elliot said.

Cornell sponsors the annual event during which dairy experts discuss research advances and other issues affecting the dairy industry. This year, the two-day conference attracted more than 300 participants from throughout New York State.

Empt, who was raised on a Pennsylvania dairy farm, is general manager and chief executive officer of the New York Dairy Improvement Cooperative. The cooperative provides dairy

herd improvement records and farm management information to more than 7,800 dairy farmers in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine. It is recognized as one of the leading dairy records centers in the United States.

A graduate of the Pennsylvania State University, Empt is chairman of the National Cooperative Dairy Herd Improvement Program Rules Committee. Previously, Empt was a sales and service director of the Northeastern Breeders Association, director of member relations for Sire Power Inc., and a vocational instructor for the Mountain View School District in Kingsley, PA.

Empt maintains a close working relationship with the Dairy Records Processing Laboratory at Cornell and with various Cornell faculty members involved in coordinating the Dairy Herd Improvement and Cornell Cooperative Extension programs. Empt is also a member of the Advisory Council for Cornell's Department of Animal Science.

Underwood, a lifetime farmer, earned an associate degree (1950) in animal husbandry from the

SUNY Agricultural and Technical College at Alfred. He owns and operates two farms consisting of 1,000 acres of approximately 500 head of purebred Holstein cattle. One of his farms is located in Cortland County and the second in Seneca County.

Underwood is the treasurer and past president of the Preble Milk Cooperative, and a member and

the past director of the York State Holstein Association. He also is a member of the Holstein Association of America and the Farm Bureau State Tax Committee. In addition, he serves as chairman of the New York State Milk Promotion Advisory Board.

He is a member of the Advisory Council for New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell and Cortland County Cooperative Extension. He is the past president of the Cortland County Holstein Club and was

named New York State's Outstanding Young Farmer in 1962. He is chairman of the New York Dairy Farm Beautification Program Inc.

An original member of the New York State Milk Promotion Advisory Board 14 years ago, Underwood has worked closely with faculty in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences on various projects, including studies that evaluated the cost of dairy advertising and ways to improve milk quality.

## Maryland Ag Secretary praises bay cleanup effort

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Maryland Secretary of Agriculture Wayne Cawley praised soil conservation leaders recently for "the tremendous progress achieved in strengthening the state's soil and water conservation program over the past few years."

Speaking at the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts' winter meeting in Hagerstown, Cawley said "I believe our plan for reducing nonpoint pollution to the

Chesapeake Bay is working. Perhaps we're not moving as quickly as we'd like or we've run into obstacles, but we've achieved what we set out to do two years ago."

In the past two years, said Cawley, the state has quadrupled funds for soil and water conservation programs from \$840,000 to over \$3 million. It has increased the number of employees assigned to districts from 36 to 95. Over \$12 million has been approved for the

state's agricultural cost share program for water quality practices. Another \$600,000 has been made available for educational and research programs.

Cawley also attributed the progress to new federal resources that have been directed into the state from the USDA's Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS).

Despite the progress, Cawley said he realized that the "past two years have been very difficult for soil conservation districts. I recognize as a result of rapid program expansion, some things have slipped through the cracks." He conceded that delays in releasing funds for the cost share program, in executing contracts and in hiring new employees have been frustrating for local conservation districts.

However, he said that the state plans to sell bonds in February that would make the remaining \$7 million in cost share funds available by March. "There is no reason to hold up applications from farmers," Cawley told them.

The agriculture department has submitted its soil and water conservation funding request for 1987 to the Governor. Although Cawley declined to be specific, he said it requests additional funds for districts, especially for those with urban workloads and those in critical areas as well as additional cost share funds.

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