

Lancaster Dairy Days set for March 4, 11

LANCASTER — The annual Lancaster County Dairy Days will be held March 4th and 11th at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center. The program starts at 10 a.m. and concludes at 3 p.m. Come early to enjoy the coffee, milk and donuts and to inspect the exhibits on display.

The first day's program will focus primarily on managing the

farm as a business, adjusting to today's economy and feeding cows economically.

On the second day, March 11th, speakers will discuss alfalfa management, heifer management, producing and utilizing good quality forages, feeding and herd management concepts, and nutrition and reproduction. There will also be an opportunity for private applicators of pesticides to

be recertified the second day.

Speakers include Penn State Extension specialists, Farm Credit personnel, veterinarians and farmer panelists.

The event is being conducted by the Penn State Cooperative Extension Service of Lancaster County. Anyone interested in dairying is invited to attend. The Penn State Extension Service is an affirmative action equal op-

portunity educational institution.

The detailed agenda for both days is as follows:

March 4

10:00—Adjusting to a Market-Oriented Economy by H. Louis Moore, Penn State.

10:30—The Money Situation and Money Management by Donald Shiflet, Farm Credit.

11:00—How We Manage Our Farm Business by panelists:

Ralph McGregor, Donald Risser, Kenneth Rutt.

11:45—Characteristics of Profitable Farms by Larry Jenkins, Penn State.

1:15—Feeding Cows Economically by David T. Galligan, New Bolton Center.

2:00—Tax Laws Affecting Dairy Farmers by Larry Jenkins, Penn State.

March 11

10:00—Growing Weed-Free, High Yielding, High Quality Alfalfa by John Yocum, Penn State Research Farm.

10:30—The Value of a Good Heifer Program by Glenn Shirk, Extension Agent.

10:45—Dairy Herd Management - Our Way by panelists: Glenn Burkholder, Dale Hershey, Tim Kissling, Nelson Wenger.

Noon—Recertification of private applicators of pesticides.

1:10—Nutrition and Reproduction by James D. Ferguson, New Bolton Center.

2:00—Our Future - Where Are We Going? How Do We Adjust? by Panelists: Robert Dever, Stephen Graybeal, Gordon Hoover, Robert Kindig, Daniel Martin

Huntingdon County farmers seek set-aside revisions

BY BE'ISY STITT

HUNTINGDON — A group of Huntingdon County farmers have joined forces to try to get USDA to make changes in the regulations for the grain set-aside program.

Led by Herman Espy, chairman of the Huntingdon County ASC Committee and a member of the county DHIA board of directors, the group is concerned because many of the county's farmers would not be eligible for the program under the department's current interpretation.

They've enlisted Congressman Bud Schuster in their effort, following a meeting here last week.

Current USDA regulations require that farmers establish a "base," using any of several different measures to prove their crop yields during the period 1981-1983. Those measures for proving late acreage reports include: sales receipts of grain sold, receipts from custom harvesting, acreage reports obtained and certified by state or local governments, or crop insurance reports.

Many Huntingdon County farmers may not be eligible for the program, says Espy, because they do not have any of those figures to verify their "base."

Espy says few farmers in the county have filed acreage reports because most of their grain was fed to livestock, and thus, there was no need to report the acreage or yield to federal authorities.

In addition, most area farmers used their own equipment to harvest their crops, and did not participate in crop insurance programs because of the low yields in the area.

As a result, they may not be eligible for payments that, for some, could total as much as \$30,000.

Espy's group feels that counties throughout the state could lose as much as \$500,000 to \$1 million annually, if their farmers cannot establish a base.

The group proposes that USDA accept the following additional verification of the "base" amount:

- Seed receipts showing amount and type of seed purchased.

- Receipts for cleaning and treating of seed planted on the farm.

- Certification of three area farmers regarding the crop and number of acres planted.

- Aerial slides, if available, proving the crop's identities and boundaries.

Allowing these additional forms

of verification, Espy said, would greatly increase participation in the program. In addition, he said, it might increase the participation in the herd buyout program, since dairymen who currently feed their grain to cows could have a crop-farming alternative with a guaranteed price.

"It would benefit everyone concerned," said Espy. "Not only farmers, but consumers as well. It would keep farmers in business and keep the price of food down for consumers."

Schuster pledged to pressure USDA for a review of the proposal.

And Espy urged farmers throughout the region to join his campaign by writing their legislators.

The group has already met with some success in its efforts, Espy noted. Officials have approved haying and grazing on set-aside lands, he said, a decision which helps all concerned.

But he's still hoping for a ruling from USDA that would add additional verification procedures so farmers can establish a base.

Others participating in the group include Glenn Houck, Gordon Cox, John Lake and Harry Gensimore.

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