

## Expert tells Berks dairymen:

# 'Winners will be those who make fewest mistakes'

BY ROBIN PHILLIPS  
Staff Correspondents

LEESPORT — Dairy Day in Berks County attracted a large audience to the Berks County Agricultural Center on February 25th, as farmers focused their attention on continuing education.

In addition to updates on the 1986 Farm Bill, the Wheat and Grain Reserve, the Conservation Reserve, and the Dairy Herd Buyout program, dairymen also reviewed dairy trends of the past, present, and future, and discussed increasing the genetic progress of a dairy herd.

Featured speakers for the day were Joe Hlubik, Penn State Extension dairy scientist, and Larry Specht, Penn State Extension dairy scientist. Costs of production, water quality, and a panel discussion of breeding program goals rounded out the meeting.

Regarding current dairy industry trends, Hlubik stated,

"more emphasis is being placed on where the lowest cost milk is produced." He went on to say that farms are gradually increasing in size; production per cow per year is increasing; and dramatic increases are expected by 1988 due to biotechnology. Hlubik listed several industry advances currently under research.

Receiving much interest, according to Hlubik, are somatotropins, or growth hormones. Researched throughout the 1950's to 80's, they have been shown to promote growth in young animals and to increase milk production in lactating animals.

With the help of biotechnology, stated Hlubik, these very expensive hormones could be produced cheap enough to be made available to farmers. Although seemingly optimistic about current research, Hlubik cautioned dairymen about the new advances with "questions must be answered," regarding the impact on the market, residues in milk,

and herd health.

Other areas being researched are protein regulation, NPN intake, amino acid balance, carbohydrate regulation, and isoacids. Hlubik explained each item to dairymen and discussed future possibilities of use on the dairy herds.

He concluded, "the important thing is to prioritize where we need to focus our attention now." "Quality control in regards to feeds is very important," he stated referring to the previously mentioned advances in technology currently under research.

The trends point to improved management, Hlubik continued. More computerization, quicker problem solving, the use of consultants, sharper business practices, and better disease controls will be a "must" in the future, according to Hlubik.

Genetic progress in dairy herds was discussed by Larry Specht, Penn State dairy scientist. "The team that's going to win this game

is the team that makes the fewest mistakes." Specht coined a phrase to refer to the dairy business. He listed several genetic mistakes to avoid in a dairy herd.

The dairy scientist began by explaining the importance of proper identification of each animal. "This is very, very critical," he stated. Animals need to be identified for bull studs to use in their sire evaluations and also to evaluate their future potential in your herd.

He also cautioned dairymen not to "plunge on hot shot bulls." "Avoid rushing to use hot new bulls with only a few daughters," he repeated. Look at the pedigree indication to begin, Specht advised. "See if it is reasonable to expect that this bull is going to have that summary," he explained.

Specht also advised dairymen to determine if the new bull was randomly mated; has a sufficient numbers of daughters in a wide number of herds; and a realistic

proof in regards to his pedigree. "I am a very strong advocate of the young sire progeny test programs," he concluded.

Specht advised breeders to use better bulls and improve the genetic base in their herds. According to Specht, the average PD of sires in a herd is improving in Pennsylvania and should be improving in each individual herd. "If you are looking to get the best possible breeding for the lowest amount of dollars, use the young sire breeding program," Specht advised dairymen. "The young bull crop of today is a better crop of bulls," he concluded.

In ending his discussion, Specht also cautioned breeders to "beware of the Canadian proofs." Canadian data uses breed class averages. The formulas to use to convert Canadian data to United States terms were given by Specht as follows:

To estimate the PD-Milk = BCA (breed class average) for milk multiplied by 117 and then subtract 727.

To estimate the PD-Fat = BCA (fat) x 4.32 - 17.

A BCA should be in the range of +14 to +20 to be competitive.

A panel discussion with Clyde Plushanski, Kutztown, and Nelson Troutman, Richland, concerning breeding goals in their herds, continued in the afternoon. Clyde Myers, Berks County agent also discussed the recent well water survey and water quality. Throughout the day dairymen could ask questions and visit the many exhibits to complete the 1986 Dairy Day educational program.

## NE Maple Producers meet

PLEASANT VALLEY — The Northeastern Pennsylvania Maple Producer's Association held its Annual Meeting and Dinner recently at the Pleasant Valley Grange Hall, with over 80 maple producers and friends in attendance.

Edward Curtis, President of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Maple Producer's Association, conducted a short business meeting and also reported on the recent Pennsylvania Farm Show maple activities and the North American Maple Syrup Council Annual Meeting which was held at Wellsboro, Pa.

Featured speakers were Lloyd Sipple, publisher and editor of "The Maple Syrup Digest", Bainbridge, New York and Bob Lamb, Lamb Naturalflow, Inc., Bernhards Bay, New York, manufacturer of plastic tubing and plastic fittings for the maple syrup industry.

Lloyd shared with the producers some of the techniques he has used to produce top-quality maple syrup products, especially maple cream. He also described how plastic tubing was introduced as a means of transporting maple sap to a collecting barrel or a holding tank. He and Bob Lamb displayed some of the different types of fittings and tubing manufactured for maple syrup production.

The group reelected Spencer Callender, Thompson to the board of directors, and chose Quentin Mead, Moscow to replace Floyd Thomas, also of Moscow, whose term had expired.

Ed Curtis presented plaque awards to Bob Lamb and Lloyd Sipple for their many years of work and support on behalf of the maple industry here in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

## NEW from CHORE-TIME

### 20" deep SSS curtain back cage layer system

- Ideal for new construction or modernizing older cage houses
- Boosts density of old stair step houses by up to 125% or more
- Boosts density of old 3-high houses by up to 33% or more
- Famous Galv-A-Weld cage construction with 10-year pro-rated warranty

### Get The Only New Technology Available For Cage Systems

Chore-Time's new 20" deep SSS 4-high system puts 33% more birds into the same row lengths as old style 3-high systems - without dropping boards and without a need for greater building width. That means at 6 birds per 16"x20" cage (53.3 square inches) a 52'x536' building can house over 108,000 birds.

But, just as important, with this Chore-Time system you also don't have to sacrifice the features and benefits you've come to expect from Chore-Time: single file egg belt, our all galvanized, SOFT TOUCH<sup>®</sup> II egg collection, a gentle cage floor slope to prevent checks and cracks... rugged A-frame cage support and legs every 4 feet to protect against cage sag and trough

wear and Galv-A-Weld (welded black then galvanized) cage construction for long, trouble-free life... a choice of feeding systems to help you take control of feed costs: Meal Master Feedkar (traveling feed hopper), M.T. (rotating Flex Auger), and NEW Ultraflex (80 ft. per minute circulating Flex Auger).

And, with Chore-Time feeding systems you can take full advantage of the new production-boosting, feed-saving MEAL-TIME<sup>®</sup> feeding method developed by Chore-Time. Our feeding systems are designed to minimize waste and provide each bird with fresh, Un-Picked-Over feed.

### NORTHEAST AGRI SYSTEMS, INC.

P.O. Box 187  
Fitchville, CT 06334  
Phone: (203) 642-7529

Local Representative  
DAVID NEWMAN  
(717) 299-9905

Our New Warehouse Is Now Under Construction At  
FLYWAY BUSINESS PARK, Located By The LANCASTER AIRPORT

**Northeast**  
agri  
systems

**CHORE-TIME**