

Mercer Guernsey Breeders meet

BY NANCY KUNICK
Staff Correspondent

Optimism is the picture for the Guernsey breed at the district, state and national levels according to speakers at the annual Mercer/NW meeting. The Guernsey breeders met at the New Vernon Grange on April 11 in Mercer County.

President James Dixon conducted the meeting, attended by over 100 members and guests. Harold Hill, secretary-treasurer gave a strong financial report. Again the annual Guernsey Ice Cream Social held in July was the main source of income for the association. Dixon said changes would be made in the mixing of the homemade ice cream and the date for the social may be moved up one week.

William Cannon, state director and president of the PGBA reported that the state association is in "pretty good shape" and that the sale is nearly final on the sale barn. He asked for input from

members about their needs from the association. "What do we want to do in the future? Ideas are spawned at the grass roots level and we'd like to hear them," he said.

Ruth Ann John, assistant PGBA business manager, echoed this when giving a thorough account of 1985 activities. She explained the PGBA financial statement and reported on commissioned sales by the association and youth activities at the state level. She also spoke about the state convention held in March and thanked those from Mercer/NW who attended.

"This is the largest of the nine county meetings I attended and it is exciting to see all those Juniors." She praised the group and said, "I encourage you to keep up the good work promoting, managing, breeding and feeding. I challenge you to do the best work possible."

National director of the AGCC Janet Harding gave a report on the board's decisions of 1985. She informed members that Jim

Cavanaugh, formerly of the Jersey Cattle Club, is currently the executive secretary of the AGCC. He is working part-time and has agreed to fill this position for 18 months.

Harding also explained the possible redistricting of the AGCC that would cut the size of the board and subsequently expenses. Regardless of whether this passes, she pointed out that she would not be serving again due to her work with the ADA. "It has been extremely interesting and challenging to serve on your board," she said.

She praised the Mercer/NW GBA for being one of the most active groups of Guernsey breeders in the state and having the largest active group of Juniors in the state. "Pennsylvania has one of the most active junior associations in the nation," she added.

Harding asked that as many as possible travel to the national convention in Peoria, Illinois in

June and support Elaine Hill, the Pennsylvania Guernsey Queen. "You can be proud to have both the Pennsylvania Guernsey Queen and the PGBA president from your association," she stressed.

Trophies were awarded to the grand champions from each of the five counties in the district. The recipients were: Sabrina Wagner, Crawford County; Scott Kaveney, Erie County; Danielle Sinkovich, Mercer County; Brian Rodgers, Venango County; and Jolynne Brown, Warren County. Brown was the only one unable to attend.

Production awards were presented to juniors Chad Kunz, 18,046 milk; Diane Ealy, 18,698 milk; and Sabrina Wagner, 22,012 milk.

New directors and auditors were elected. The group voted to have three auditors rather than two. Cindi Kunz was elected, Vic Marburger was re-elected and John Burnham will continue to serve as auditor. Jim Dixon declined his nomination and the position was filled by his son, David. All other directors were elected for another term.

Franklin Co. to host fruit tour

Eight landowners, totaling over 400 acres, were approved for conservation planning assistance at the April meeting of the Franklin County Conservation District Board of Directors held recently.

Those requesting assistance are: Elmer Plessinger, Peters Township; Richard Brager and J.

Kirk Smith, Washington Township; James Nogle, Antrim Township; Earl Snell, Lurgan Township; Hugh W. Woods, III, Letterkenny Township; and Charles Baer and Garry W. Martin, Montgomery Township.

District Manager Ernest Tarner reported on the Executive Council Meeting of the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation District Directors, Inc. that he recently attended in Williamsport.

John Akers, District Conservationist with the Chambersburg office of the USDA Soil Conservation Service gave a monthly report of his office's activities.

District Chairman Andrew Fitz and District Manager Tarner are planning to attend the Executive Council Meeting of the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation District Directors, Inc. at Brookville on May 16 and 17.

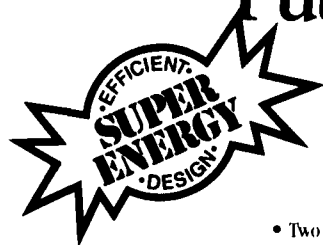
Arrangements for the Annual Banquet and Meeting of the Franklin County Conservation District were discussed and the date for this year's banquet was set for September 25.

Directors Present: Andrew Fitz, Glenn Dice, Joe Ausherman, Wilbur Kline, Dwight Mickey, and Charles Myers.

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