Junior Judging School Held

BY BETSY STITT Blair County Correspondent WARRIORS MARK Ap-

proximately 35 junior dairy judging enthusiasts gathered in Huntingdon County on Tuesday and Wednesday to fine tune and learn new judging skills.

Dale Olver, from Atlantic Breeders, was the official judge for the school hosted by the Pennsylvania Holstein Association.

Before the actual judging began, Olver explained the official scorecard, parts of a dairy cow and

proper judging technique to the participants.

He stressed that first impressions can be valid and suggested standing far enough away so that at least two cows can be viewed at once.

Comparing close inspection to Chinese fire drills, Olver explained the purpose of this time during a contest. Close inspection is a time to check for minor things and missed details. He recommended a three step approach to capitalizing on close inspection.

One - start with a rear view to check for sharpness of withers, balance of rear udder and cleanness of bone. Two - check both sides of udder for balance, and three - a front view to check for width of front end.

The juniors counted off in groups of six. Each group then described the cows with the individuals stating their placings.

Olver also talked about giving reasons, explaining the way to do well and the way to bomb. One thing he stressed was telling the truth. He said that in a contest it is very easy for an official to know when a contestant is not telling the truth simply by quizzing. If 16 contestants answer that number one is the tallest, and the 17th contestant answers that number two is the tallest, the judge knows which contestant's answer is false.

Another important factor in giving reasons is to compare the pairs rather than just describing each cow.

Once all this information was given to the judging school participants, they were off in the muggy heat for some actual judging.

First stop was at Bransdale Holsteins owned by Terry and Jane Branstetter, Warriors Mark, where two classes of Holsteins





Dale Olver explains what to look for in a correct set of legs to participants in the recent Central Judging school, hosted by Huntingdon County Hoistein Breeders and the Pennsylvania Holstein Association.

were waiting.

Next stop was Gillbrook Farms owned by John and Karen Gilliland. At this farm the emphasis was on oral reasons.

The second day of the judging school, the group judged Ayrshire and Brown Swiss classes at the Cletus Rhodes farm, Holsteins at James Davis and Globe Run

> Early American settlers saw the importance of dairy farming as maintaining a stable food supply which could provide much needed nutritional food. England from

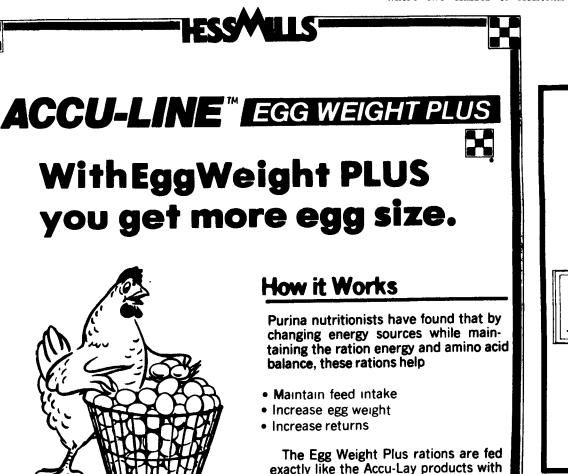
Farms, and Jerseys at the Dennis Hardy Farm.

The central school was the first of three junior judging schools scheduled. A second school was held in Crawford County July 10 and 11. York county will host the third school this coming week on July 14 and 15.

> The number of dairy farms continues to decline. In 1900, there were 4.5 million dairy farms in the United States. Today, there are only 220,000, but because of scientific advances, milk production



Participants in the school judge a class at Bransdale Farm.



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