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Balboa Does It Again

BY EVERETT NEWSWANGER
 Managing Editor

STATE COLLEGE — After being the grand champion at the prestigious state show and producing 31,000 pounds of milk and 1,200 pounds of fat as a two year old last year, Cherry Brook LTD Balboa came to the 1986 Pennsylvania Holstein Championship Show here Thursday as a three year old and did it again. Was named senior and grand champion that is.

It all started when David Dowler purchased Balboa's dam at the Fire Power Sale as a calf in 1981. When this calf Hanover-Hill Rag Apple Rocky grew up (now 2E) she was mated to Valiant. Balboa is the result of this mating.

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The champions at the 1986 Pennsylvania Holstein Show in State College Thursday (L to R) reserve senior and reserve grand-champion Singing Brook Pete Audie; owner Obie Snyder; senior and grand champion Cherry Brook LTD

Balboa; leadsman Harvey Clem; owners Dowler and Ed Doeberliener and Judge John Morris. The show was held in the new ag arena.

State Dairy of Distinction Board of Directors Named

BY EVERETT NEWSWANGER
 Managing Editor

STATE COLLEGE — A group of dairy industry enthusiasts who were in attendance at a meeting here at Penn State in the interest of the Northeast Dairy Farm of Distinction Award Program agreed to become the first state board of directors and work to get the program in operation in Pennsylvania by the spring of 1987. Since milk originates from dairy farms, the Dairy Farm of Distinction Program is designed to encourage the beautification of dairy farms for the benefit of consumers of milk who may drive past the farm. Any dairyman that produces milk for sale and has a nice-looking farm may apply for the award.

Plans call for the state to be divided into districts according to cow numbers and numbers of dairy farms. For example, with its concentration of dairy cows, Lancaster County may be divided into two districts. Where dairy

farms are more sparsely situated a larger territory would be included in a district.

A local board of directors promotes the program, assigns local judges and provides the recognition events in each district. Colorful farm signs are awarded to let the public know your farm has received the distinction. The state directors form the basis to tie the local districts together and provide the tie into the regional organization of the program.

Steve Spencer, Penn State dairy science department, called the meeting to order and introduced Bill Underwood, president, and Sue Renholds, executive secretary of the New York State Dairy of Distinction Program. Underwood said their program, which started three years ago, "exceeded by far anyone's expectations. The interest was strong. The participation never has gone below 300 applications per year. And it has had a good impact on agriculture in New York State."

At present 384 farms in New York State have received the Dairy of Distinction Award. They limit the award to 10 farms in each district each year. In addition the farm must requalify each year to retain the distinction.

Underwood said not all Dairy of Distinction farms are along main roads. Many are along back roads where they don't get much exposure but still have a desire to keep their farms looking beautiful. "It gave dairymen in New York State a chance to sit down under a common cause to work on a project," Underwood said. "And that has been important. Anything we have learned or any of our program bylaws, application forms or judging criteria that can be used to get the Pennsylvania program started is openly available to you," Underwood said. "New Jersey is also interested and we hope that together we might turn our experience into a Northeast Regional Program."

The new Pennsylvania state

board of directors have already set up two October meetings for organizational and program planning sessions. The dairy industry leaders on this new board of directors are as follows: Helen Fountain, Dairy Lea; Wally Jackson, Milk Inc.; James R. Barnett, Innerstate; Paul Nichols, ADA&DC; Audrey Queitzsch, Pennsylvania Brown Swiss Association; Danna Baker, Eastern Milk; Daniel M. Baker,

ADA&DC; Wally Willy, Hershey Chocolate Co.; Richard Packard, dairy farmer; Patty McMurray, dairy farmer; Darwin Braund, Agway, Inc.; Mike O'Connor, Penn State Dairy Extension; Bill Smedley, Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program, PDA; Bob Williams, Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program, PDA; Steve Spencer, Penn State Dairy Extension; Everett Newswanger, Lancaster Farming newspaper.

Haylift Lands In York Co.

BY JOYCE BUYP
 York County Correspondent

AIRVILLE — Hundreds of southern York County dairy cows will have fuller bellies this winter, thanks to the generous efforts of fellow Pennsylvania farmers, community volunteers and the military.

Among the shipments of donated hay which began arriving in southern York County this week was a convoy of six National Guard transports which rolled into the Airville area Tuesday afternoon

with about 50 tons of bales.

Another 50-ton shipment, three boxcars of hay donated from western Pennsylvania, was expected late in the week. It was being moved cost-free by ConRail and the Stewartstown Railroad, and was loaded by Army Reserve personnel.

Hay coming into York County is being routed to full-time farmers, primarily dairy operations, facing critical feed shortages due to the season's severe, extended drought.

Some 1,737 cows on 22 farms will eat better with those two shipments alone. The six loads which arrived Tuesday in Airville were distributed to feed 890 cows on a dozen farms, averaging 74 head per herd. Hay due on the Stewartstown boxcar shipment was earmarked for ten herds averaging 84 head, and a total of 847 cows.

Another four boxcars of hay, loaded in Sullivan County, are expected to arrive at a later date in York County Originally intended for use in the South, the transportation costs were found to be prohibitive, and the shipment instead diverted to aid York farmers.

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Lancaster Co. Ag Income Down

BY SUZANNE KEENE

LANCASTER — Lancaster County farmers harvested a healthy crop of ag commodities in 1985, but received \$24.6 million less for their products than the previous year.

The total value of Lancaster's agricultural products for 1985 was \$85 million, reflecting a \$19 million decrease in the value of crops and a drop of \$5.6 million in the value of livestock and poultry.

"We had a good year in production, but a very tight year in dollars," said Lancaster County Extension Director Jay Irwin. Irwin released 1985 county agricultural statistics compiled by Agricultural Statistics Service

in a press conference here Wednesday.

Farmers broke county records in wheat, barley, oats, and potatoes, the number of dairy cows and laying hens and value of dairy products and eggs in 1985. But the abundance of products contributed to lower prices for almost every commodity "I think the imbalance of supply and demand was a major factor," Irwin said.

"The way agriculture has maintained its strength in this country is the increase in productivity — the increase in production in yield per acre, increase in production in pounds of milk per cow, eggs per hen and pounds of meat put on a broiler,"

he said. But despite the declining value of ag commodities, the number of county farms remained steady at 5,210.

"We have a tradition in this county of really tightening the belt when conditions are bad," Irwin said "I think Lancaster County is fortunate in that we have the tight farms we do."

With 113,000 cows producing \$213.5 million of dairy products, Lancaster County leads the state in milk production. However, dairy farmers here received about 85 cents less per hundredweight of milk than in 1984. The average loss of income on a dairy farm, Irwin

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Drought Hay Fund

The 1986 Summer Drought Hay Fund has received a total of \$19,358 to date. If you want to contribute to this drought hay fund, make your checks payable to 1986 Summer Drought Hay Fund. Then send your check to Lancaster Farming newspaper, 22 East Main Street, P.O. Box 366, Lititz, PA 17543, attention Hay Fund or attention Editor.