

Lancaster County DHIA Honors Top Members, Supervisors

SMOKETOWN — A major organizational change in the Pennsylvania DHIA program is necessary if the association is to grow and meet the needs of current and potential members, DHIA General Manager Richard Barth told Lancaster dairymen this week.

Barth was speaking to Lancaster County DHIA members attending their annual meeting at Good 'N Plenty restaurant in Smoketown Wednesday.

"We have no marketing ability in the organization with the program we have," he said. Supervisors do not have the time to sell the association to potential members.

In the past, Barth noted, changes in DHIA have occurred in 15-year intervals, with the first major improvement coming in 1956, when the first computer was installed at Penn State to calculate cow records.

The next change came around 1970, when a centralized testing lab was opened in State College. In 1986, another change — this time in organizational technology — is brewing.

Two major reasons for change, Barth suggested, are lack of marketing ability under the current system and an inability to adequately police the ranks. The integrity of records hangs on the association's ability to enforce the rules, he stressed.

But while Barth called for organizational change at the state level, he applauded Lancaster DHIA members for the quality of their program, noting that two state directors and one national director hail from the county.

In many ways, the state association is also strong, Barth noted. The number of cows enrolled in the program is up almost 7,000 from 1985; however, the number of herds has

decreased, indicating an escalation in average herd size, he added.

Financially, the state organization is strong and members can expect to pay the same rates in the coming year. Nevertheless, rates may be increased in 1988, he said.

The percent participation of cows has remained nearly the same and lab usage has been peaking at about 62 percent, he reported.

Barth said his biggest disappointment for the year has been the lack of participation in the AM/PM program. The goal for 1986 was to raise participation by 5 percent to the 25 percent level. But as of the end of November, participation has increased only about 1.5 percent, despite the Holstein Association's commitment to the program. "That's a real disappointment for me," he said.

For 1987, Barth said, he would like to see DHIA achieve excellence in service, integrity, reliability and innovation. To achieve that goal, the association will need to diversify service, improve record integrity, improve the supervisor force and employ new technology, he said.

The immediate objectives of DHIA, Barth said, are to control costs while diversifying services, and to increase enrollment to defray fixed expenses.

In the more distant future, DHIA members can expect a new nutrition system, a herd health system, and a young stock program.

"The center section is splitting," Robert Damm said. The director of field service and marketing for Pennsylvania DHIA noted that in Pennsylvania two farm sizes are increasing — below 50 cows and over 100 cows.

"DHIA has aimed programs at the middle section," Damm said.

He suggested to the Tuesday group that DHIA will have to develop programs to meet the needs of the larger and smaller herds.

Lancaster County DHIA will see changes in field services and the entire program. Solutions to Lancaster County's problems will have a ripple effect to areas outside the county with similar problems, he added.

Last year Lancaster County added 71 herds to its ranks and dropped 51 herds for a net gain of 20 herds. This raises the number of herds on test in the county to 1,066, according to Jay Mylin, county manager. However, in spite of the increase in herds, the county association posted a deficit of \$9,366.60.

Norm Hershey, Lancaster DHIA president, noted that net margin does not reflect the true financial picture of the program. "The county portion of the DHIA fees hasn't increased in sometime and the association has a healthy savings account," he said. The board will address this issue at their upcoming winter meetings, he noted.

Robert Kindig, state DHIA president, congratulated Lancaster members on a very good year. New enrollments equaled or outpaced by a few the number of cows lost to the buyout program.

Another bright spot, he noted, is the decreased turn around time (period between the time a herd is tested and the time test results are mailed) accomplished with the new mainframe computer.

Two New Holland farms shared the top production awards in the county. Weaver Homestead Farm received the award for high fat production herd. On 127 cows, the Weavers averaged 22,545 pounds of milk, 847 pounds of fat and 675 pounds of protein.

Lapp Valley Farm registered the high milk production with an average of 23,308 pounds of milk, 812 pounds of fat and 725 pounds of protein on 71 cows. This average qualified for the top milk production award for the Holstein breed.

The top milk production award for the Ayrshire breed went to Harold Shelly, Manheim. He completed a herd average of 15,346 pounds of milk, 610 pounds of fat and 498 pounds of protein on 27 cows. Warren Schmuck owned the top Ayrshire for fat. His 3 year old produced a record of 20,276 pounds of milk, 804 pounds of fat and 639 pounds of protein.

Richard Wenger garnered the Brown Swiss high milk production award with an average of 16,862 pounds of milk, 673 pounds of fat and 564 pounds of protein on 103 cows. His 5 year old lead the county for fat production with a record of 24,516 pounds of milk,



Millie Linde was honored for the high Guernsey herd. Weaver Homestead, represented here by Don and Nelson Weaver, was honored for having the high fat production herd in the county.



Honored Wednesday for top milk production herds were, from left, Martin Herr, Holtwood; Harold Shelly, Manheim; and Richard Wenger, Manheim.

1,048 pounds of fat and 816 pounds of protein.

Guernsey honors went to Axel and Mildred Linde's herd of 68 cows. During the 1985-1986 testing year the herd averaged 15,172 pounds of milk, 715 pounds of fat and 538 pounds of protein.

"Dolly," a 4 year old owned by Kenneth Garber, topped the breed for fat production. Her 305 day record stands at 19,746 pounds of milk, 1,069 pounds of fat and 708 pounds of protein.

In the Jersey breed, Marvin Herr produced the highest milk production. His herd of 60 cows averaged 14,222 pounds of milk, 666 pounds of fat and 541 pounds of protein.

Robert Ulrich Jr. owned the high Jersey cow for fat production. "Fancy" completed a record of 19,003 pounds of milk, 970 pounds of fat and 740 pounds of milk for the title.

An average of 13,929 pounds of milk, 555 pounds of fat and 456 pounds of protein on 20 cows secured the high milk production award of the Milking Shorthorn breed for J. Douglas Marsh, Nottingham. His 6 year old lead the ranks with a production of 19,123 milk and 809 fat.

Kirkwood dairyman Karl Herr

claimed the top production award in the Red and White category. His herd of 45 cows averaged 16,233 pounds of milk, 573 pounds of fat and 505 pounds of protein.

High fat cow honors for the Red and White breed went to Indian View Farms' cow with a record of 19,302 pounds of milk, 781 pounds of fat and 623 pounds of protein.

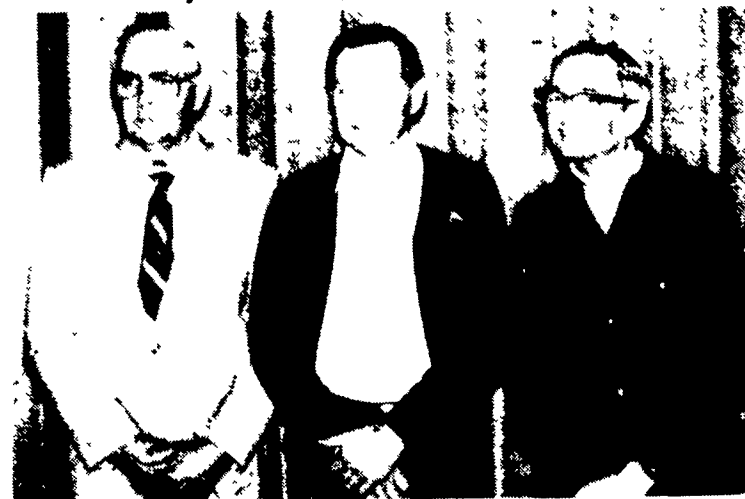
G.M. Weaver of New Holland copped the top production award for the mixed breeds with an average of 19,270 pounds of milk, 681 pounds of fat and 591 pounds of protein on 49 cows.

A cow owned by Pequea Meadows Farm lead the Holsteins. This 4 year old produced 29,023 pounds of milk, 1,207 pounds of fat and 837 pounds of protein in her most recent lactation.

Two Brown Swiss herds maintained the lowest somatic cell counts in the county. Kerry and Deborah Boyd of Ephrata received recognition for the lowest count at 76,000. Donald Trimble of Peach Bottom produced the second lowest count at 85,000.

Other herds producing an SCC under 100,000 include: David Stoltzfus, 87,000; Roy Sensenig, 87,000; Curtis Akers, 88,000; John

(Turn to Page A21)



Receiving the Supervisor Performance Award for outstanding service on Wednesday were, from left, Maurice Welk, Jay Risser and Floyd Zook.



Lancaster County dairymen honored for having herds with somatic cell counts under 100,000 included, from left, Nathan Stoltzfus and Kerry Boyd.



Supervisors honored Tuesday with the Supervisor Performance Award were, from left, Harold Lindecamp, Tom Garrett, Wilbur Houser, Jim Lehman, and Harold Probst.