

## Field Day For Cattlemen Aug. 22

UNIVERSITY PARK — Beef feeders, cow-calf operators and beef producers are invited to attend the Cattlemen's Summer Field Day at the Greystone Manor Farm near Lancaster on Sat., Aug. 22.

Co-sponsored by Penn State's College of Agriculture, the Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association and the Pennsylvania Beef Council,

the field day features commercial exhibits, demonstrations and discussions. Topics include feeder cattle type, feeder cattle health updates and operations management for finishing and grading.

Penn State animal scientists Lowell L. Wilson, Clair Engle, Bill Henning and Jim Gallagher have been working with industry

representatives and representatives of the Pennsylvania Beef Council on the program. Beef specialists will be on hand to discuss day-to-day issues of cattle operations.

Other topics covered at the field day include the cost of gain in relation to fatness; cutability, lean yield and profit; new beef products; beef promotion and education efforts; and boxed beef merchandising.

"This year's field day is targeted to cattle feeders," says Gallagher. In the past we've targeted programs to cow-calf producers, but since most of the feeding operations are in the Southeast part of the state, we thought this field day should focus on their needs."

Participants are invited to take part in a beef eating quality evaluation, which will be held over the noon hour.

At 1:00 p.m. Dr. Terry Dockerty, a Northeast beef and veal merchandiser for the Beef Industry Council and a former extension meats specialist at Cornell University, will give a presentation on "Beef and Veal Promotion,

Research and Education Programs: What are They and Why are They Needed?"

Glenn Paris, of West Berne, New York, who finishes 3400 cattle annually, will then give a talk on "How We Manage Risk in Our Feeding Operation." A panel of packers, producers and buyers will comment on the guest presentations.

The Greystone Manor Farm is located on route 272, five miles

east of U.S. route 30 toward Ephrata. There is no pre-registration or fee for the field day. All are welcome.

For more information contact Penn State's department of Dairy and Animal Science at (814) 863-3668 during the day or the Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association at (814) 238-5888 or (814) 355-7884. You can also contact your county Penn State Cooperative Extension Service.

## Meat Plant Operators

### "Rule The Roost"

### In Soviet Union

Although many meat plant operators in the United States have frequent complaints about government interference in their operations, they cannot appreciate what a good situation they have compared to counterparts from the Soviet Union. That's the assessment from Lev Blitschtein, former Deputy Administrator for the Ministry of Meat and Dairy in the USSR, and a recent visitor to AAMP headquarters.

AAMP had worked since the late '70's toward Blitschtein's release from the Soviet Union, where he was labeled a "refusnik" because of his desire to leave that country to come to the United States to be reunited with his wife, daughter and son, who emigrated here in 1975. He was granted approval to come to the U.S. by Soviet officials four months ago.

Blitschtein said the USSR has more than 56,000 meat inspection and control officials. There are about 900 meat plants in that country and virtually all production is destined for Moscow and Leningrad.

"It is considered a privilege to live in a city like Moscow," he said, "because of the better availability of products like meat. You cannot live there without receiving an official government stamp authorizing you to do so."

"But it is the meat plant managers who are among the most popular and influential people in the whole country," he continued. "They are more important than the mayors. Because all meat production is destined for the cities of Moscow and Leningrad, everyone wants to know and meet these important plant managers. They can get anything... airline tickets, tickets for an event, or hotel reservations."

The former official said bureaucracy and the system works against production, noting that a small plant would have to have a manager, assistant manager, chief engineer, assistant engineers, and an entire entourage of bureaucrats involved. Everyone watches everyone at the government level.

And then, of course, you would need four or six guards for a small plant, or everything would disappear," he added.

Blitschtein is currently working for Fancy Foods, a poultry distributor in New York City, and drove to Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, to thank the Association for its efforts in assisting with his release.

After touring the Association headquarters and a few small meat processing operations, Lev remarked about the computerization. "It's true that we had computers in the Soviet Union, but only the boss had one and he watched it all day to see what the meat prices were so he could buy. The other,

computers work, but they don't work well without any information in them, and nobody wants to give any information about anything. It's like having a computer and not being able to plug it in," he said.

When asked about his impressions of the United States, he gets a moist glaze over his clear blue eyes, and calls it "a paradise... it is a paradise that I only dreamed about, and that dream came true!"

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