

Heilinger Sweeps Lebanon DHIA Awards

BY PAT PURCELL
PRESCOTT (LEBANON CO.)

— Hundreds of Lebanon County DHIA members gathered at the Prescott Fire Hall for the annual banquet Tuesday night for fellowship and to honor many of the county's top dairy producers.

Bruce R. Heilinger was Lebanon County's biggest winner. Heilinger of Newmanstown, had the highest herd average for fat, milk and protein. According to DHIA records the herd average for

fat was 858 lbs., milk was 23,769 lbs., and protein was 773 lbs..

Sonnen Acres Farm of Richland received what many consider to be one of the most prestigious awards. The award for the herd with the lowest somatic cell count was presented to Rebecca Sonnen, representing Malcolm Sonnen.

Werner Way Farms of Fredricksburg was honored for high individual cow production with 1,011 lbs. (78W) of protein and 34,135 lbs. of milk. Werner Way

Farms is owned by Lewis and Jeff Werner and Calvin Miller. Walter Heisey of Schafferstown was awarded the plaque for the high individual cow production in fat at 1,227 lbs.

For the greatest increase in herd average Ezra H. Martin of Myerstown showed an increase of 2,880 lbs. in milk and 85 lbs. in protein. David Eugene Reiff had an increase in herd average of 115 lbs. of fat. Reiff is of Annville.

Ken Winebark, Lebanon County Dairy Agent, told the audience that Lebanon had experienced a lot of changes in 1987 and although the county lost several dairy herds, the county added 19 new herds this year. Lebanon County presently ranks third in the state for average per cow milk production, 17,739 lbs; fifth for butterfat production, 639 lbs.; and third in protein production.

Winebark noted that the number of DHIA members receiving production ribbons had increased from 33 ribbons presented last year to 75 ribbons presented for 1987.

Rebecca Sonnen, Pennsylvania's Dairy Princess, discussed the value of DHIA testing as the most valuable tool for today's dairy farmers. Winebark repeated this and told members that it is the tool they must use to become the most efficient producers and to stay in business.

In other business, Kirby Horst, Gary Lentz and Kenneth Maze were elected as DHIA Directors. Other directors serving this year are Kenneth Sellers, President; Vincent Wagner, Secretary; Lee Wenger, Treasurer; Malcolm Sonnen, Clyde Deck, Stanley Bucher, Donald Hoffer and Jay Hershey.

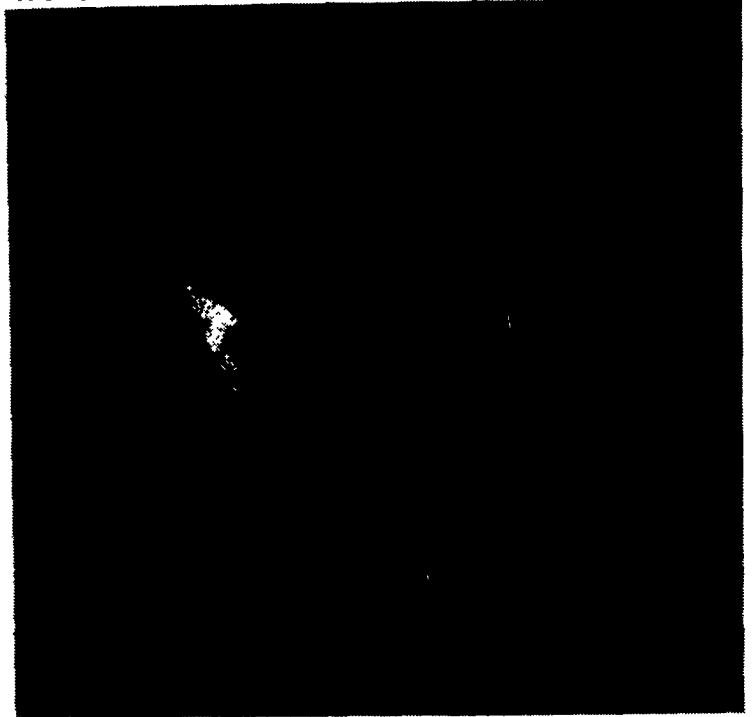
Members recognized for production: Raymond & Marling Getz, 804 lbs. milkfat; Willow Maple Farm (Harold & Donald Bollinger) 783 lbs. milkfat; Roy H. Weaver, 772 lbs. milkfat; Lloyd Burkholder, Jr., 762 lbs. milkfat; Roy E. Nolt, 760 lbs. milkfat and 690 lbs. protein; Donald G. Hoffer, 759 lbs. milkfat.



Bruce R. Heilinger, Newmanstown, received the Lebanon DHIA award for high herd averages.



Rebecca Sonnen, PA Dairy Princess, accepted the award for the lowest somatic cell count for Sonnen Acres of Richland.



Lewis Werner accepted the award for highest individual cow production in Lebanon DHIA for Werner Way Farm, also operated by Jeff Werner and Calvin Miller.

Dairy Herd Replacement

How These Farmers Make It Work

BY PAT PURCELL

Editor's Note: Each farmer has his or her own way of achieving results in raising heifers. This article explains how these farmers are successful.

Long Meadows Farm

HAMBURG — At Long Meadows Farm, in Berks County, either Helene Dreisbach or one of her daughters fed and tended the

calves, but that is in the past. Presently the job is shared by everyone on the farm. She does not belong to the school of thought that women have a natural talent for tending the calves. According to Helene, it does take a conscientious and meticulous person.

"We've got a real good group of people helping who are very conscientious and who will take the

time to notice changes in the calf's condition and run their hands over the calves which makes them a lot less skittish and easier to handle. You really need a person who is fairly meticulous. And you can't have one person doing the first feeding and another person doing the second feeding because you don't know if they are cleaning up their feed everyday," explained Helene.

Helene keeps their calves in hutches from April to November. They are brought in and put into a calf room upstairs in a separate barn where all have individual pens after they are weaned at six weeks.

"When the calves do come inside they are kept totally isolated from the cows," said Helene.

Helene has experimented with the way the heifers are raised, but closing the herd appears to have done more towards the health of the heifers than anything else she has tried.

"In the last four years we have closed the herd and now have a lot less health problems. We also vaccinate for everything under the sun. That comes from having a resident veterinarian. We always test herd for Johnes and it is always



The older Jersey calves enjoy more freedom in the super hutches at Dreisbach's farm and at the same time learn to have respect for the electric fence.

negative," said Helene.

"I feel we deal with a lot less health problems because we are good feeders. We feed a good quality grass and hay. We feed whole milk until the calves are 6-weeks-old then feed a commercial calf grain with molasses. They

are on that for five to six months and at the same time on a nice grassy type hay, but not alfalfa because it is too rich or we use a mixed hay if green and harvested early."

"Then they are put on heifer grain, bulk delivery feed, by that

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Calf tending duties are shared by everyone at Long Meadows Farm. The "X" in the upper right corner is a signal to the next person. One line means she has begun to the weaned. A full "X" means the calf is totally off milk.