

Gill Receives Fellowship To Leadership Program

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Kathy Gill has been selected to receive a fellowship from the 1988 Leadership Development Program of the National Center for Food and Agricultural Policy at Resources for the Future. The Leadership Development Program, which involves a month of intense study of the interrelationships between food, agricultural, and related policies and the policy-making process, is designed for mid-level professionals with strong leadership potential and proven experience in agriculture-related occupations. "We are pleased to have Ms. Gill as a participant in this year's program," says John Kornacki of the Center, "and we expect that each fellow will not only learn something about policy formation but contribute substantively to the discussion of new policy directions for American agriculture."

In addition she is the executive director of the Pennsylvania Association of Farmer Cooperatives in Harrisburg. In this position she is responsible for educational program development and administration, meeting planning, in-state legislative monitoring and lobbying, public relations, and community development. These efforts are focused primarily on young farm couples, cooperative employees, and high school youth.

Kathy received her B.A. in journalism and agricultural economics from the University of Georgia, and her M.S. in agricultural economics from Virginia Polytechnic and State University. She is a member of several associations including the Agricultural Relations Council, the Cooperative Communicators Association, and the Pennsylvania Society of Association Executives. Kathy was selected to be in the inaugural class of Rural Leadership, Inc., and in 1986 was elected to represent her class as Vice President on the Board of Directors.

The Leadership Development Program is now in its third year of operation and is part of the National Center's commitment toward providing continuing professional development opportunities for the next generation of national leaders in fields related to food, agricul-

ture, and natural resources. The Leadership Development Program, as well as the policy analysis and communication activities of the National Center, are supported by a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, Michigan.

Resources for the Future, founded in 1952, is an independent non-profit organization for research and education in policy issues concerning natural resources.

Good Ventilation Is Critical To Dairy Herd Health

BY MARJORIE KEEN
Chester Co. Correspondent
GUTHRIESVILLE — "We want to get that moisture level down," Dr. Larry Hutchinson told Chester County dairy farmers. "Water droplets in the barn carry bacteria and viruses and that's why, under high humidity conditions, we have more trouble with respiratory diseases."

Hutchinson, Penn State Extension veterinarian, spoke on new respiratory diseases and vaccination programs at Chester County Cooperative Extension Dairy Day last week.

Hutchinson was one of three veterinarians giving advice on dairy herd health problems. Farm publications columnist Dr. Charles Gardner, of Ackermanville, Northampton County, emphasized mastitis control and the use of farm animal health records. Local herd health problems and solutions were highlighted by Dr. Joseph McCahon of Downingtown.

Rounding out the program sponsored by Chester County and Penn State Extension and Hamilton Bank, county extension agent David Swartz explained new tax law considerations and compliance with state law on farm fuel tanks.

Because respiratory organisms are carried on water droplets, it is important to get barns opened up and move more air, Hutchinson explained. "Ventilation matters at the height where the cow's or calf's nose is. For a calf lying

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On January 1, 1988 the support price for milk was decreased to \$10.60 for 3.67% fat milk and \$10.33 for 3.5% fat milk. An assessment of 2.5-cents was instituted to cover the requirements of the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings budget deficit reduction act. The policy situation in 1988 should remain fairly stable throughout the year. However, there are several new proposals already being discussed in Washington and there

down, that's six inches from the floor."

Other factors causing respiratory problems are ammonia and other gases which reduce the ability of an animal's lungs to clear out bacteria, according to Hutchinson.

Hutchinson continued, "If we're going to stay out of pneumonia problems, we need to limit stress." He named environmental stressors: heat, cold (for the very young calf), humidity; and physiological stressors: birth, parturition, high milk production, weaning. Also, disease/injury stressors: pain, tissue trauma, fever, toxins, drugs and vaccines; and manmade stressors: trucking, moving, crowding, nutritional imbalance, and starvation.

Speaking on mastitis control, Gardner recommended using a clean paper towel or cloth for each cow before milking. All three vets answered dairy herd health questions from the audience.

are sure to be more, if it looks like CCC purchases are going to be higher than the 5 billion pound targets for 1988 and 1989.

U.S. milk production is projected to be about 145.4 billion pounds with an increase in production per cow of 2.0 to 2.5% and the number of cows holding steady or declining 0.5%. Higher feed prices, especially concentrates, may hold down the increases in production per cow, but a milk/feed ratio of around 1.45 and generally good management still imply improvements in production per cow comparable to the recent

Although the Pennsylvania law on fuel storage has been in effect since 1927, it hasn't been enforced on farms, Swartz stated. However, last year a Berks County fuel dealer instructed drivers not to fill skid tanks next to buildings because of its liability, according to Swartz.

"Two times so far in the state of Pennsylvania where there was a fire on a farm," Swartz related, "the insurance company reneged on paying . . . because the farms were not in compliance with this code. In one instance, according to our safety specialist, the fire was not even started by a violation . . . it was something else."

"That's the major reason why you need to be concerned about it," Swartz concluded, "even if you don't care personally about having more safety on your farm."

trend. Changes in cow numbers will depend on expansion of existing farmers and the number of dairy farmers going out of business relative to new entrants. With prices expected to decline in 1988, this may be the year that more dairy farmers decide to retire early or just find something else to do.

The factors that have contributed to healthy increases in sales during the 1980's should continue to push commercial disappearance up in 1988 to about 139.9 billion pounds, a 2.3% increase. If there is a major factor which might hold back this level of increase, it could be the strength of the general economy (i.e., a recession that could be fairly severe).

If production continues to increase as strongly as it did in the fourth quarter of 1987, market prices could fall more than predicted. The M-W could come down sharply and quickly to the support price. If increases in production are moderate, consumption increases more than 2%, and if the market outlook is fairly optimistic, market prices could hold firm above the support level. The M-W price is expected to average about \$10.54, 69-cents below the 1987 average of \$11.23. The average Pennsylvania wholesale price is expected to be about \$12.30, 56-cents below the 1987 average of \$12.86. This would give Pennsylvania dairy farmers an effective price (taking the assessments into account) in 1988 that will be only 39-cents lower than in 1987.

With these projected changes in production and commercial disappearance, net removals of dairy products under the price support program would be slightly over the 5 billion pounds target, at 5.8 billion. However, depending on how factors actually affect milk production, and to a lesser extent commercial sales, CCC purchases could well range upward to 7 billion pounds or more.

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