

Enthusiasm High As Temperatures Soar



Gilbert Gummo of Filmore in Centre County returns to Ag Progress Days for the new in the old farm equipment. "I'd have to say the old farm machinery and tools are my favorite. I always go to the museum (Pasto) because every year they change it and I don't want to miss a thing." He and wife Betty and daughter Marlene dairy farm on 250 acres just outside of Bellefonte. Betty said they usually drink milk, but the hot temperatures Wednesday forced them to the nearest drink stand they came to on Main Street.



Karl Miller of Bangor enjoyed taking the general reserach tour. A dairy farmer, Miller learned a lot at the Agway exhibit, where he discussed field fresh for alfalfa.



"This is a great opportunity to see all the new technology in this country," said Sebastian Quijada and his wife Iris, both citizens of Venezuela. Sebastian is a student of agriculture at Penn State University. Being a teacher in farm equipment and machinery in his country, Sebastian's enthusiasm and excitement was equalled only by that of his two young children. When asked if he could take anything home to his home in Venezuela what would it be he was quick to point to a \$150,000-plus tractor and disk. "I would really like to take that home with me."



Charlie and Elaine Benner from Middleburg, Pa. attend Ag Progress Days every year because it is educational. "We like to see what's new. This is the first time I've gone on one of the research tours and I thought the water quality tour was certainly worth it," said Elaine. Challe was interested in methods of pesticide application which he has been experimenting with on their 200-acre dairy farm.



Lorrain Raybuck noted that there were more cattle and more farm-machinery exhibits this year as opposed to last year. A beef farmer from Punxsutawney, Raybuck was glad to discover that he can get replacement blades for his haybine that are attached with bolts rather than rivets.



David Glass is the owner of a farrow-to-finish hog operation in Birdsboro. He has been attending Ag Progress since the days when it was held in Hershey. This was the first year he and his wife brought their two children with them. The reason: no diapers to worry about.

Atlantic Members Sign Up To Stop Price Cuts

SOUTHAMPTON (Berks) — With pen in hand, Ronald B. Reich carefully placed his signature on the line. In doing so, he joined other Atlantic Dairy Cooperative members in saying "enough is enough."

Reich, a dairy farmer from Winfield, Pa., was among hundreds of Atlantic members who put their names on the line for their industry. What they signed was a petition strongly opposing additional cuts in the milk price support program.

Spearheaded by the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF), the petition drive was part of a campaign to "Stop the Price Cuts." NMPF member cooperatives, such as Atlantic, participated in the campaign by gathering signatures from their own members.

According to NMPF, the petition drive has had a positive effect, as reflected in the core package of the drought relief legislation. The bill, which President Reagan is

expected to sign this week, includes the repeal of a pending 50-cent cut in the support price.

In signing the petition, Reich said he believes that "the price of milk must be increased, not cut, especially since feed costs are almost doubling due to the dry weather."

The drought of 1988 has placed additional hardships on an industry that has suffered financially in recent years. Since December 1983, the price support for milk has dropped by \$2.50 per hundred pounds of milk, a 20 percent reduction.

Park L. Buckwalter, a director of Atlantic, said that lower feed costs in the past have helped farmers survive falling milk prices. But, that has changed.

"Now, because of the drought, feed prices have risen sharply," said the Watsonstown, Pa., dairyman. "It is important that milk prices go up instead of down."

Increased feed costs brought on by the drought have already forced

many farmers to begin culling their herds. And, fewer cows mean less milk and less income.

"A lot of young family farmers will not make it financially if the

present conditions continue," said Reich, who stressed the need for an end to support price cuts.

This is the message being sent to Washington through the petitions,

which represent dairy farmers from across the nation. Atlantic members signed their names to the petitions during recent district picnics.

USDA Guidelines To Pork Referendum

LANCASTER — The U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued a final rule governing procedures for conducting the Pork Referendum as authorized by the Pork Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act of 1985.

Referendum voting in Lancaster County will be conducted in the Conference Room at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, off the Manheim Pike near Jones Pontiac, during normal business hours (8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.). Voting will be conducted on two days, September 7 and 8, 1988 in county

Extension offices. Voting also will take place from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on September 7.

Producers and importers unable to vote in person may request an absentee ballot by writing or visiting Ken Kephart, Pork Refendum State Extension Coordinator at 324 Henning Building, University Park, PA 16802. Absentee ballots will be available from August 1 until close of business, August 26, 1988. Absentee ballot return envelopes, containing ballot and registration/certification statements, must be signed by the voter and mailed so as to be received in the county Extension office serving the county of voter residence,

by close of business on September 1, 1988.

All pork producers who produced (and owned) porcine animals in the U.S. for sale in commerce and who are subject to assessment during the representative time period of November 1, 1986, through September 6, 1988 are eligible to vote. Importers who imported porcine animals, pork or pork products during the representative time period are also eligible to vote. Also eligible are 4-H, FFA and other youth who owned porcine animals and are subject to assessment during the representative time period.