

Dairy Of Distinction Program

(Continued from Page A1)

winners for a story. And the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture sent a list of winners to all their news contacts across the state.

In 1987, Pennsylvania received 329 applications and chose 99 winners. In 1988, there were 229 applications with 94 winners. Letters of quality went out to all milk handlers. Two negative responses were returned.

Again in 1988, Governor Robert Casey declared a Dairy of Distinction week by signing a proclamation that was presented by State Ag Secretary Boyd Wolff at the reception for all winners at Ag Progress Days in August. At that time, *Lancaster Farming* presented color photographs to each Dairy of Distinction winner, too.

"Since we now have worked on the program for three years, the benefits have started to multiply," Newswanger said. "Not only does the extra favorable publicity in the general press help bring modern farm practices to the attention of urban people, it helps the farmer, too. Many winners use the distinction to promote their own operation or to seek and hire farm labor."

And now is the time when additional dairy farmers may apply for the Dairy of Distinction award. Also farms that had applied in previous years but did not win are eligible to reapply this year. The

Dairy of Distinction farms are automatically entered for rejudging along with the new applications to insure each designated farm maintains its standard of excellence required by the program.

Pennsylvania has been divided into 10 districts. Each district has been designated according to its number of dairy cows. Up to 10 farm awards per district may be given each year. Deadline for entry is April 15.

Judging takes place in the month of May and is based on the roadside appearance of buildings, grounds and surroundings. A local district team of judges visits each farm and uses a score sheet to rate each farm. In the Pennsylvania program, in addition to this team of judges, the sanitarian for your cooperative or dealer-handler will be asked to be part of the judging process.

Winners receive a colorful, 18x24-inch Dairy of Distinction sign to be placed at the entrance to the farmstead. In addition, as in past years, an 11x14-inch color portrait of the farm will be given to each winning farm in the Pennsylvania program by *Lancaster Farming*.

Write for more information or send your application to your area secretary. PENNSYLVANIA AREA: Paul Nichols, ADADC, 1853 East Third St., Williamsport, PA 17701. NEW JERSEY AREA:

August Knispel, RD 1, Box 325, Pittstown, NJ 08867. NEW YORK AREA: Evelyn Lightfoote, 3053 Depew Road, Stanley, NY 14561.

The Dairy of Distinction program is a cooperative, widespread industry effort. Sponsors include: milk promotion groups, cooperative extension, State Departments of Agriculture, the Grange, Farm Bureau, producer groups and agribusinesses. The program is run by volunteers at all levels of the organization.

Application blanks are available from extension offices, agribusinesses or from published reports in the farm publications.

Pennsylvania area chairpersons are:

District II: George Wilcox; District 12: Wally Jackson; District 13: Jack Erway; District 14: David Myers; District 15: Sam McClay; District 16: Bernice Gable; District 17: Kevin Barrett; District 18: Allen Roszel; District 19: Naomi Spahr and District 20: Russell Rooks.

Pennsylvania officers are: Everett Newswanger, president; Dan Baker, vice president; Paul Nichols, secretary; Donna Gearhart, treasurer and Steve Spencer, advisor.

Pennsylvania is divided into ten districts. Approximately 10 Dairy of Distinction awards will be made each year in each district. There is no cost to the applicant.

In the Pennsylvania program, the sanitarian for the applicant's cooperative or dealer-handler will be asked to be part of the judging process along with the local district's team of roadside inspection judges.

As a winner, you will receive a certificate and a nice metal sign to put at the end of your farm lane. In

addition, *Lancaster Farming* will present this year's winners in Pennsylvania with a color portrait print of their farm. If your farm is a winner, be sure you or your district committee takes a color photograph of your farm and sends the negative and proof to *Lancaster Farming* in time for the awards ceremony.

Advanced Nutrition Courses Available

The advanced school assumes the participants already have a basic understanding of dairy cattle nutrition. It is designed to help people learn more about some of the newer concepts of feeding. It will focus more on nutrition-related problems and how to overcome these problems and prevent them from occurring in the future.

To remain competitive with dairymen in other parts of the country, local dairymen need to stay efficient. Some presentations will show what is required to feed a high producing, efficient herd for greater returns - with or without the aid of BST.

Topics include: Newer Feeding Concepts and Trends; Balancing Rations for Types of Protein, Fiber and Carbohydrates; Feeding Fats and Oils; Adjusting Rations for Changes in Kind and Quality

of Forage; Stages of Lactation; Higher Production and Fat Tests; Better Condition and Greater Gains; Stages of Growth of Heifers; and for Greater Returns. The school will also focus on Trouble Shooting Nutrition - Related Herd Health Problems using Blood Profiting, Good Observation Techniques and Information in Farm Records. Tests and Sampling Procedures will be discussed, as will Therapeutic Nutrition plus Feeding Cows to Support Other Forms of Treatment and to Help Prevent Future Herd Health Problems.

These schools are being conducted by Penn State Cooperative Extension of Lancaster, Chester and Lebanon counties.

The Cooperative Extension is an affirmative action, equal opportunity educational institution.

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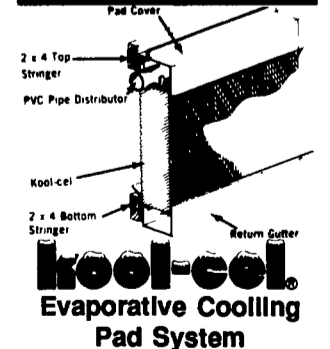
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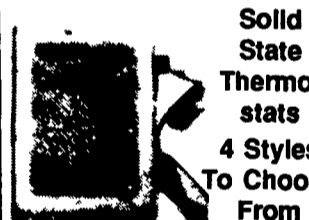
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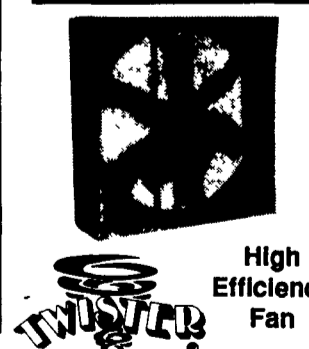


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