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Atlantic Brings Ag and Business Leaders Together

BY PAT PURCELL

GRANTVILLE (Dauphin) —

The Atlantic Dairy Cooperative members invited agribusiness people from across the Commonwealth to learn more about the dairy industry's impact on local,

state and national economies at a luncheon held in Harrisburg on Tuesday.

Pennsylvania farms generate well over \$3 billion dollars in production each year and nearly 20 percent of the labor force is

employed in agriculture and food related businesses. Agriculture is the number one industry in Pennsylvania. The dairy industry, making up the largest segment of Pennsylvania's agriculture, does have a great impact on the state's

financial health.

According to a recent report from the American Dairy Association, Pennsylvania is currently the fifth largest dairy production state in the U.S., producing over seven percent of the national milk

supply. During 1987, Pennsylvania's 13,700 dairy farms produced more than 10 billion pounds of milk. Leading dairy economists predict Pennsylvania may rise to fourth place, overtaking Minnesota.

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PSU Lawn Research Favors Agriculture

BY

EVERETT NEWSWANGER

Managing Editor

STATE COLLEGE (Centre) —

Here at Penn State University, the run-off basins at the site of the original government research project for soil erosion has been renovated into a modern facility to test chemical and nitrate leaching. And what Dr. Tom Watschke and his colleagues have found over the last three years provides significant rebuttal to the general accusations aimed by environmentalists at non-point source pollution of water resources by agriculture.

Speaking to the University's advisory council Wednesday, Watschke said that the first and most important thing they have learned is that turf in contrast to pasture land reacts much differently to the applications of chemicals and fertilizers. In tests, the sodded areas on up to 14 degree slopes received nutrients or chemicals and were irrigated with six inches of water in an hour. But only rarely did they find contaminants in the run-off to exceed the public drinking water standards of 10 parts per million.

When the public sees a heavy rain on lawns, they think they have a lot of chemical and nitrate run-off from the lawns onto the sidewalks and streets. But Watschke's tests indicate the applications stay where they are put.

"In sixty-five percent of our samples, pesticides are not detectable and herbicides have never been detected," Watschke said.

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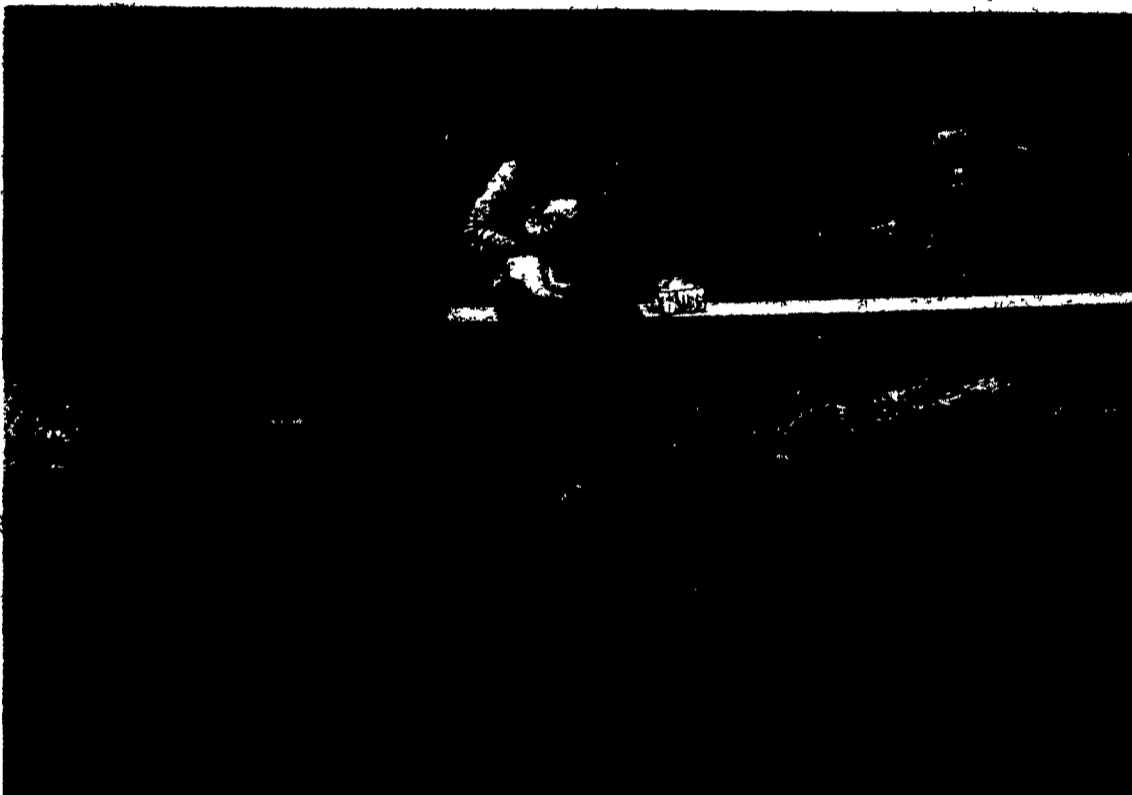


Photo by Lou Ann Good, Lancaster Farming staff writer.

Welcome to the Olde Fogle Farm. Tom and Bliz Fogle share their Marietta farm with tourists across the country. "We have a Ma and Pa Kettle operation here," Bliz said. "I think that is what city folks like about our place. For them, gathering a basket of eggs is better than an Easter egg hunt."

Bliz (above) and grandson Willie, 5, said folks enjoy riding Amos, the Amish horse, petting a pig and milking a goat.

To learn more about the Olde Fogle Farm and farm vacations, turn to page B16.

German Farmers Visit Lancaster County

BY

EVERETT NEWSWANGER

Managing Editor

NEW HOLLAND (Lancaster)—About 30 farmers from northern Germany visited here this week and received a correction of their impressions of American farms in the process. Hosted by the Lancaster County Farmers' Association, the bus group stopped at the Delmar Weaver family farm south of New Holland over lunch

to learn how local farmers live and conduct their operations. Before the stop at the Weaver farm, the group visited an Amish farm at White Horse and later visited the Ford New Holland plant.

Dr. F. G. Myers Zu Erbe, president of the West German Farmers' Association, said the group was pleased to visit with colleagues in the U.S. "We have seen very clean farms," Myers said. "The grass is cut. The houses painted. We are

very interested to see."

Myers said the newspapers and TV bring them pictures of American farms but always the big farms or what he called "management farms." But he said they were impressed with the family farms that were much like those in Germany.

Dr. Reinhold Wenrlaff Zlofif, an ag professor and advisor to 2000 farmers, said that in Ger-

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\$100-A-Plate Banquet Builds Poultry Industry

BY LOU ANN GOOD

HERSHEY (Dauphin) — It was good time at the Hershey Convention Center on Thursday night. The Pennsylvania Poultry Federation raised funds with their \$100-a-plate banquet.

Janie Frickie, Country Music Association's female vocalist of the year, and Andy Andrews, popular comedian, entertained the crowd of 1,800.

Frickie presented a variety of songs from a MacDonalds jingle and two new "country" songs from her soon-to-be released album.

The audience laughed along with Andrews when he queried, "Is the chicken the only ani-

mal we can eat before it is born and after it is dead?"

His comedy has twice earned him "Comedian of the Year" by the National Association of Campus Activities and he's appeared with many top comedians and at the White House.

According to Bill Schlotterbeck, chairman of the Federation, the annual banquet proceeds build a stronger poultry industry by accomplishing the following:

- saves three million dollars annually on Workers Compensation.
- enjoys Right-To-Farm legislative protection.

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Janie Frickie (center) performed at the PA Poultry Federation's annual banquet on Thursday night. State Poultry Queen Valerie Hoy (left) and Lancaster Poultry Queen Aissa Hooper joined Frickie during the autograph session.

Dairy Expo 1989 Penn State Annual Award Winners

By Marianne Walker

Centre Co. Correspondent

UNIVERSITY PARK, Centre

— "If you think we have had a lot of changes in the past 40 years, I want you to take a look at the next 20." This was the declaration of Donald Seipt, Distinguished Alumnus of the 64th Penn State Dairy Exposition held April 22 at University Park.

Seipt addressed those attending the Dairy Science Club's Annual Awards Banquet which honors winners of the Annual Dairy Judging Contest, the Annual Dairy Fitting and Showing Contest, and the Dairy Princess Contest.

Fast advances in the dairy industry noted by Seipt included the general acceptance of artificial insemination, the use of calf hutches, and embryo transfer. The upcoming 20 years, he sees as truly exciting, with advances such as gene splicing coming into practice.

A 1950 Dairy Science graduate, Seipt is the owner of Keystone Farms where he has produced 152 cows with over 100,000 pounds of milk lifetime and 24 cows with

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Butterfat Surplus Likely To Trigger Support Price Cut

By Karl Berger

Special Correspondent

EPHRATA — Current supply-demand trends have set the dairy industry on a collision course with another 50-cent support price cut on Jan. 1, 1990, according to industry observers.

"If we have a normal growing year, the general industry assumption is that the price cut is going to occur," Jim Fraher, an economist for Atlantic Dairy Cooperative, noted in a recent summary of industry conditions.

The cut, the last of three called for by the 1985 farm bill, will be imposed if the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates the government will purchase more than 5 billion pounds of surplus dairy products in 1990. Current projections for both 1989 and 1990 foresee surplus purchases totalling 7-9 billion pounds, well above the trigger level.

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