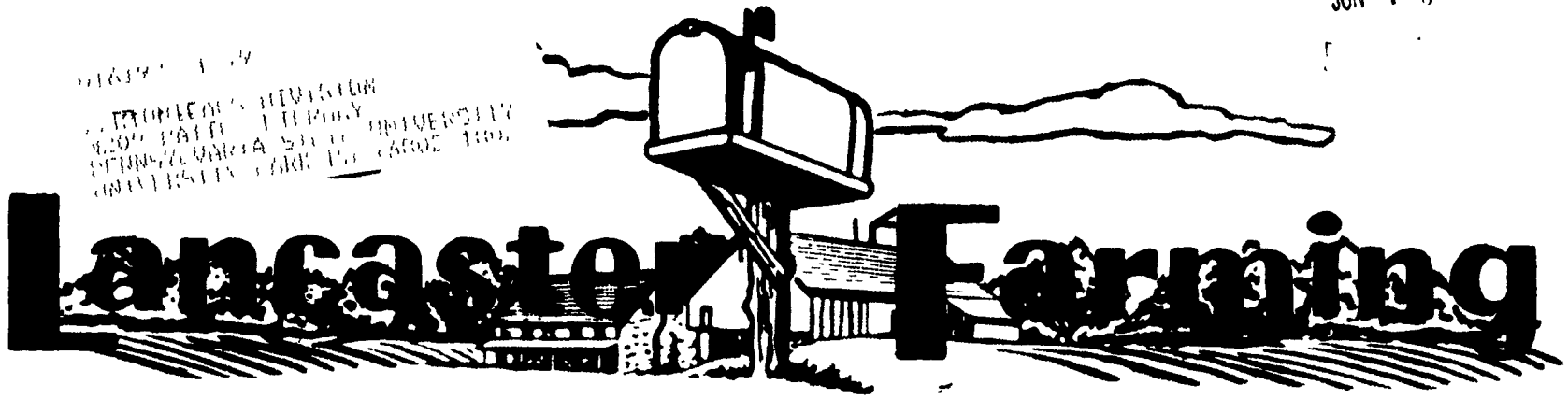


REC'D JUN 1 5

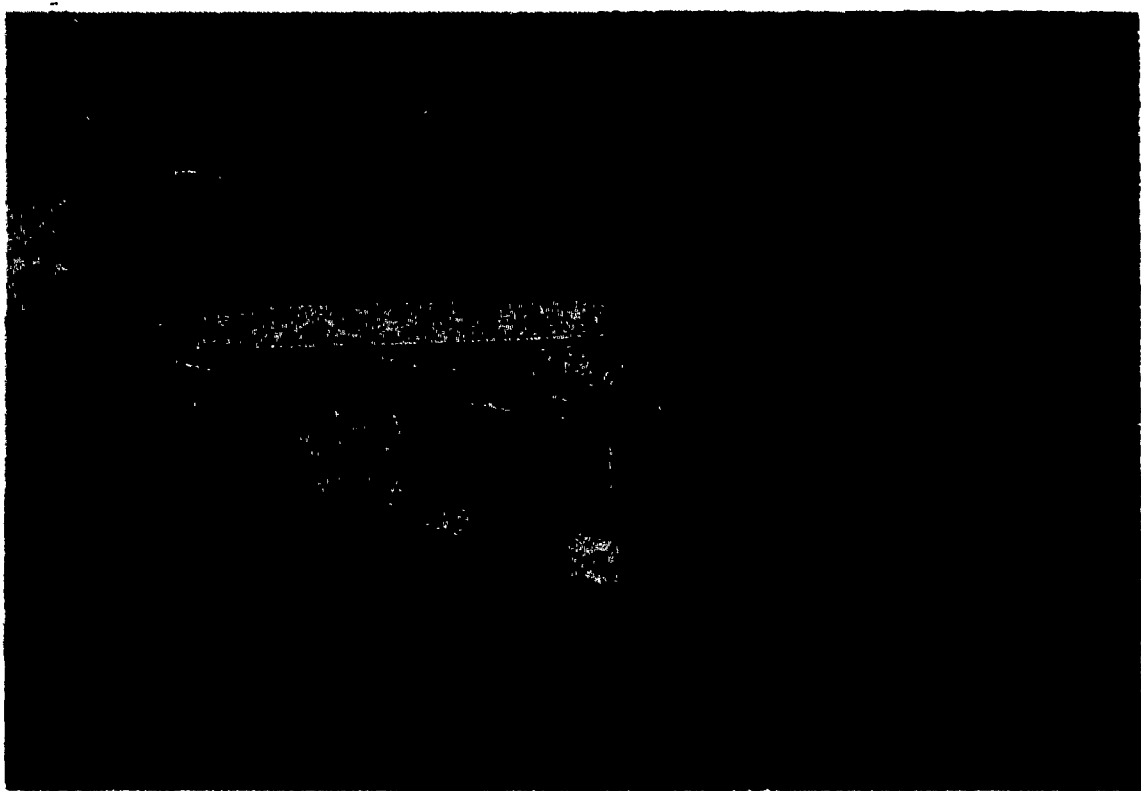
LIBRARY OF THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY UNIVERSITY PARK PA 16802-1104



VOL. 34 No. 30 Five Sections Lancaster Farming, Saturday, June 3, 1989 50¢ Per Copy \$12.50 Per Year

# Annual Dairy Issue — An Industry Showcase

## Quality Is #1 At Spinning Wheel Farm



On the kitchen tables of consumers is where the real beauty of Ralph and Debbie Robertsons' Spinning Wheel Farm is found. This Westminster, Md. couple earned their quality premium for 12 consecutive months in 1988 from Atlantic Dairy Cooperative. They were one of 39 member families to do so.

**BY PAT PURCELL**  
WESTMINSTER, MD—In the picturesque Wakefield Valley in northern Carroll County Maryland, the Robertsons' farm is one of several beautifully kept farms.

450 acres. Owned by the third-generation of Robertsons, the Spinning Wheel Farm is neat, clean and well-maintained, looking like many other attractive dairy farms.

The lush green pastures dotted with cattle, the rolling fields of grain, the winding patterns made by windrows and the fragrance of fresh cut hay make this area just southwest of Westminster one of the most attractive areas to live in Maryland.

But the beauty of this farm goes far beyond its appearance. As a matter of fact, the real beauty of this farm goes all the way to consumers' kitchen tables, to restaurants and school cafeterias.

The continuously burgeoning housing developments are a constant reminder to Ralph Robertson and his wife Debbie that this way of life must be preserved. Ralph is very supportive of the ag land preservation program in his state and chairs the Carroll County program which now has nearly 20,000 acres in preservation.

While many dairy farms produce high quality milk and earn quality premiums, few farms earn that distinction for 12 consecutive months. The Robertsons are one of just 39 milk producers with the Atlantic Dairy Cooperative who did just that for the 1988 fiscal year.

Ralph, and his wife Debbie milk 85 mostly grade Holsteins, own 137 acres, rent five farms and crop

That means the somatic cell count is consistently 200,000 or below, the PI count is below 30,000 and standard plate count is below 10,000. What that means to  
(Turn to Page A20)

### Industry Leaders Also Give Opinions

## Herd Owners Discuss On-Farm BST Trials

**BY EVERETT NEWSWANGER**  
Managing Editor

**BELLEFONTE** (Centre Co.)—Several years ago, when Tom Craig, Bellefonte worked with Penn State University and the Eli Lilly Pharmaceutical Company to test bovine somatotropin under ordinary dairy farm conditions, he saw an increase in milk production within 48 hours. But he didn't find a utopian situation as some people had predicted.

"If you think BST will be a major cure-all, you will be disappointed," Craig said. "Management will be the key. Management in feeding. Management in herd

health. And with the added stress of high production, you will need to be on top of everything you do."

In the trial on Craig's farm, a sustained release injection was given every 28 days. They weighed the milk and feed each milking and got between 10 and 20 percent increase in milk. The cows ate a little more but feed efficiency increased.

"We had help from the nutritionists at PSU," Craig said. "But I did notice that we were fortifying the ration with high energy product we were not using before."

The milk was tested each week and there was no difference in fat, protein or any other component

that could be attributed to BST. There were no reproduction problems that could be attributed to BST.

The cows were injected right after calving. But Craig thinks it would be better to wait until after the cow reached peak production in the lactation. In first calf heifers,

the response was not as great as in older cows, because the heifers used the BST to grow.

In the trial on the Craig farm, a small gauge needle was used for the injection right under the skin. The cows had no extraordinary reaction to the injection. Craig would not like to give the injection

in the milking parlor. And in a free stall barn he would recommend locking head gates or a squeeze shoot. He said the process did take extra time but said that you could divide the herd into groups to treat at different times.

Craig said he has wrestled with  
(Turn to Page A27)

### Hershey School Farms

## Why Is Their Alfalfa Program Tops In Pennsylvania?

**BY LISA RISSER**

**HERSHEY** (Lancaster Co.) — Henry Hershey would be proud. As one of the first farmers to bring alfalfa to the area, he would be delighted at the success of the Milton Hershey School Farms' alfalfa program. His son's school was winner of the 1988 Pennsylvania Alfalfa Producers Program.

"We've been competing since the initial formation of the program in 1971," said Al Dugan, director of research for the school. "We've been twice a bridesmaid, but never a bride."

What makes the win even more remarkable is that, despite a drought situation, the school turned in its highest yield ever of 9.40 tons per acre. The winning plot showed a crude protein level of 3,408 pounds and a total digestible nutrient level of 10,147 pounds.

The school has 6,300 acres of crop land of which about 625 is devoted to alfalfa. The remaining acreage is used to grow corn, barley, soybean, oats, and mixed timothy hay. The winning entry  
(Turn to Page A23)



"Make it with milk," is the rallying cry for June Dairy Month. Across the nation, June is a month-long tribute to the quality and freshness of real dairy foods. Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Kimberly Bonzo tells students at Big Knob Elementary School in Beaver County that milk contributes more than 70 percent of our daily calcium needs and many other nutrients.