

FARM FORUM OUR READERS WRITE

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yard systems. This latter point is of utmost concern considering that in 1988 the U.S.D.A. found that approximately one in every thirty "fancy" veal calves slaughtered contained illegal drug residues. Residue violations in bob veal calves were about half as many.

It is time for the A.V.A. to recognize the problems associated with the crate system and to develop more humane alternatives. The veal crate has been outlawed in England and other European countries. It is only a matter of time before it is outlawed in the United States.

Gene Bauston
Director Farm Sanctuary

Editor:

I would like to urge farmers with highly erodible land who feel they are doing a good job not to get a conservation plan.

I have a 350 acre dairy farm in Somerset Co., Pa. Most of my tillable acreage is in pasture and hay. All my cropping has been no-till for three years. Yet I was told that I might as well get a conservation plan now because in a few years it will be required by law whether you participate in any USDA programs or not.

Farmers should go to their county ASCS, SCS, and FmHA offices and give a written request to find out the amount spent on salaries and office expense. You have this right under the Freedom of Information Act. If you think too much money is being poorly spent speak out. Also write your Representative and Senators.

I hope others feel as I do; that the best way to protect our rights is just say no to USDA.

David M. Jenkins
Myersdale (Somerset Co.)

Editor:

When our hospitals lose money and have to close their doors, when our doctors and nurses head toward higher salaries in urban areas, and when our health insurance premiums increase at rates that we can neither pay nor control, rural citizens have to get involved.

It's time we let our lawmakers know that we expect high quality health care in our communities. The studies, committees, and pilot projects that they have offered in the past are no longer suitable solutions. However, several pieces of pending legislation, such as S.B. 306 and H.R. 762, do offer solutions to the problems that face health care providers in rural areas. For example, The Equity for Rural Hospitals Act, which was recently introduced, would eliminate a long-standing Medicare reimbursement policy which pays urban hospitals an average of 35 percent more than rural hospitals for the same procedures. The legislation calls for a four-year phase-in of one national Medicare reimbursement rate for both urban and rural hospitals. It would guarantee payments that are equal to the operating costs of financially-distressed rural hospitals that depend upon Medicare for over 70% of their inpatient services.

The Pennsylvania State Grange, which represents 42,000 members statewide, is joining in a campaign to fight for the quality of rural health care. We, along with other groups, are urging all rural citizens to attach an adhesive bandage to a postcard and send it to their Representatives, Senators, and President Bush, telling them that we don't want any more "bandaid solutions" for the quality of rural health care and asking them to support legislation that

would improve rural health care.

In 1988, 43 rural hospitals across the nation closed their doors. If this trend continues, it is estimated that up to 600 rural hospitals will close their doors in the next several years. Rural hospitals need help in order to provide the services that we deserve. Let's let our lawmakers know what we want: real support for rural health care!

Michelle A. Snyder
Public Relations Director
Pennsylvania State Grange

Editor:

Hooray! On May 16, Pennsylvanians took advantage of a rare chance to correct the state legislature and voted down tax reform. Better than their representatives, voters know a bad deal when they see one.

Now we need a referendum on federal tax reform.

Jeff Bullock
Phoenixville

A year full of fond memories that will live with me forever. This is the year that I served as the 1988-89 Lancaster County Dairy Princess.

This past year I had the opportunity to grow, mature and learn -- an opportunity that few young people have. Sharing my knowledge and speaking for the Lancaster County dairy farmers and the dairy industry proved to be a challenge along with many rewards. Rewards such as smiling children as they pet the newborn calf, grocery shoppers nodding their head for approval of the delicious dairy samples, and thankful adults who remember the "good ole days" as I visited them in nursing homes and senior centers. The rewards are countless.

To me, life on a dairy farm is very enjoyable, as well as a learning experience. Farm life teaches a very important value-it teaches responsibility-through the daily care of animals, farm equipment,

and crops in the field. Being the dairy princess for Pennsylvania's top dairy producing county is also a responsibility that demands the distribution of important nutrition information to people of all ages. Few industries can boast such a variety of nutritious, low-cost, and delicious products necessary for healthy life, as can the dairy industry. It was a great honor and privilege to talk to many people about the wholesome goodness of dairy foods.

This year was made possible with the support of my family and friends. I extend my sincere Thanks to my parents and family for their loving guidance and encouragement. Also, the continu-

ous support of all dairy farmers, local dairies and businesses is greatly appreciated. I Thank You all!

As my reign ends, I remember vividly the people I met, the places I traveled, and the many friends, who I will cherish forever.

When I crown the next dairy princess on June 17, I will do so with a feeling of accomplishment, knowing that many people will "make a cow happy," and drink that glass of milk. As your Lancaster County Dairy Princess, Farewell and God Bless!

Julie Greider
1988-89 Lancaster County
Dairy Princess

PA Distinguished Junior Member Contest

STATE COLLEGE (Centre) — Cumberland County's Michelle Cornman has been named a national semi-finalist in the Holstein Association Distinguished Junior Member Contest. Michelle became eligible to compete in national competition after winning the Pennsylvania Distinguished Junior Member Contest in February.

Michelle is 20 years old and a very active junior member. She was named her county's and the state's DJM winner in the Junior Division in 1985. Michelle has also been active in the show-ring exhibiting many champions and Junior All-PA award winners.

Michelle has been involved in 4-H events as well. She was a member of Cumberland County's 4-H Dairy Bowl and Dairy Judging teams, which competed in area and state competitions. She has also served as an officer in the county's Dairy Club.

This fall, Michelle will be a junior majoring in Dairy Science

at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia. While she has been at Virginia Tech, she has become a very dedicated member of the Dairy Club, holding several club chairmanships and working closely with the club's yearbook, *The Milky Way*. In the fall, Michelle will be representing Virginia Tech in dairy judging competitions as a member of the B-team.

As a semifinalist, Michelle will represent Pennsylvania in the National Contest to be held during the National Convention, June 25-29, 1989 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She is one of 12 semifinalists who will be interviewed by a panel of judges. Following the interview, six will be named as National Holstein Distinguished Junior members.

Michelle lives with her mother, Francis Cornman and her brother, Delmar Cornman, in Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania.



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