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Southcentral Pennsylvania Champ Is Mercersburg Cow

BY BONNIE BRECHBILL
Franklin Co. Correspondent
SHIPPENSBURG (Franklin Co.) — A cow backed by three generations of homobred cows with lifetime records of 100,000 pounds of milk won the Southcentral Pennsylvania Championship Show August 12. Lockway Ivy Plato, a four-year old owned by C. Richard and Georgianna Locke of Mercersburg, is estimated at more than 20,000 pounds of milk with a 4.2 percent test. Fresh four months, she is the daughter of Willmont Glendell Plato-ET and Lockway Honey-OC.

Judge Paul King admired the grand champion for her overall scale and youthfulness and her outstanding udder.

Plato was also named best bred and owned of the show.

"She's in her prime," Locke said of Plato's first big win.

A veteran of the show ring was named reserve senior and reserve grand champion of the show, held at the Shippensburg Fairgrounds. James & Nina Burdette's Windy Knoll View Ultimate Pala, also a

four-year old, is classified 92 points and is milking 122 pounds a day. She was named All-Pennsylvania as a junior yearling, junior two-year-old and three-year-old, and was grand champion of the Southcentral Championship show last year. The Burdettes and their two sons operate Windy Knoll View farm near Mercersburg.

The Burdettes also showed the junior champion of the open show. Windy Knoll View Count Noreen, a junior yearling, is a Modik Valiant Count-ET daughter.

Reserve junior champion of the open show was Penn Gate Valiant Fancy, an S-W-D Valiant daughter. She is an intermediate yearling owned by Steve and Chris Wood of Penn Gate Farm, Littlestown.

The Woods, who farm in partnership with Chris's father, Robert Gitt, also took home the premier exhibitor and premier breeder banners. Penn Gate earned blue ribbons in five classes at the show.

According to judge Paul King of Mossfield, W. Va., the quality (Turn to Page A24)



Lockway Ivy Plato garnered senior and grand champion honors at the Southcentral Pennsylvania Holstein Championship Show for Lockway Farm of Mercersburg. C. Richard Locke, third from right, showed the four-year-old Willmont Glendell Plato-ET daughter. James Burdette, third from left, of Windy Knoll View Farm in Mercersburg showed the reserve senior and reserve grand champion, Windy Knoll View Ultimate Pala. Congratulating them are judge Paul King, Lancaster County Dairy Princess Angie Spiekler, Franklin County Dairy Princess Jennifer Gloss, and Cumberland County Dairy Princess Bobbie Jo Gatchell.

Board Raises Preservation Fund To \$25 Million

ROCK SPRINGS (Centre Co.) — The state Agricultural Land Preservation Board approved an additional \$5 million in grants on Wednesday so local governments can purchase additional conservation easements.

Agriculture Secretary Boyd E. Wolff, who chairs the board, said the state has approved a total of \$25 million toward the preservation of Pennsylvania farmland. Eighteen counties have contributed \$3.4 million in local funds to the program, and the state fund was increased in order to meet the matching fund formula in the Farmland Preservation Act, which went into effect in February.

If funds still remain this year after all allocations have been

made to eligible counties, the process will begin again with the remaining monies.

"We have been very pleasantly surprised by the support and enthusiasm of our counties," said Wolff. "Counties are halfway through their fiscal year and have committed \$3.4 million dollars. We think this is significant support for the voter-approved program."

Pennsylvania's farmland protection program is funded by a \$100-million bond issue approved by voters in a statewide referendum in 1987. Funds are allocated according to a formula based on pressure from development, agricultural production, and county appropriation.

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Many people watch the corn harvesting demonstrations at Ag Progress Days.

PDA And Penn State Join To Cut Farm Pesticide Use

BY PAT PURCELL
ROCK SPRINGS (Centre Co.) — The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and Penn State University have joined forces to help farmers cut their use of chemical pesticides and herbicides through the increased use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques.

By an agreement signed at Penn State's agricultural research center during Ag Progress Days, Secretary of Agriculture Boyd E. Wolff and and College of Agriculture Dean Lamartine Hood, the department and university will combine resources to research, develop and implement IPM practices.

IPM is a form of crop protection which replaces chemical dependency with a greater reliance on

information while protecting the farm's profitability. IPM utilizes increased information to help the farmer make better pest management decisions with an emphasis on the integration of biological, cultural and chemical methods.

"These new techniques can show farmers they may be buying more chemicals than they need, and that there may be more effective, cheaper methods of controlling pests," said Wolff.

"The department has been supporting these concepts for some time, and the feedback has been positive," said Wolff.

Penn State's College of Agriculture has been conducting various research projects in several crop areas including apples, peaches,

corn, and potatoes. One project has concentrated on the the European red mite which costs the Pennsylvania apple grower much in loss in quality and production.

"Through IPM research, we were able to discover a biological control that was effective against the mites," said Hood.

Hood added that PDA's contribution will accelerate Penn State's research program and help bring about more success stories.

PDA has contributed more than \$386,000 in the form of research grants to Penn State for IPM-related projects:

CONTINUING PROJECTS:
— Biological control of forage diseases \$29,500.

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Boyd Wolff, Pennsylvania ag secretary, and Lamartine Hood, Penn State University College of Ag dean, sign an agreement to cooperate to help farmers reduce their dependence on chemical pesticides.