

Lancaster County DHIA Banquet

(Continued from Page A25)

Lancaster, 856; John Howard of Willow Street, 851; John S. Zimmerman of East Earl, 847; Curtis Akers of Quarryville, 844; Weaver Homestead Farm of New Holland, 836; Spring Belle Farm of Lancaster, 835; John Coleman Jr. of Ronks, 829; Dale and Steve Hershey of Manheim, 827; John and Barbara Brubaker of Christiana, 822; Ammon Reiff of Lititz, 822; Marlin Beiler of Paradise, 820; Aaron Zeiset of Leola, 809; Robert Wenger of Quarryville, 803; Elmer High of Lititz, 802; and Richard Sauder of Reinholds, 800.

During the business portion of the banquet, election results were reported: Marvin Witmer was re-elected to Circuit 1, Clarence Hoover was elected to represent Circuit 4, Gerald Risser was re-elected to Circuit 7, Nelson Wenger was re-elected to Circuit 13, Melvin Beiler was re-elected to Circuit 15, and Gordon Hoover was elected to Circuit 18.

Maryland Agriculture Is Financially Strong

ANNAPOLIS, MD — A recent survey completed by the Maryland Department of Agriculture shows that agriculture in Maryland is in good financial shape. Overall, Maryland commercial farm operations have smaller debts than the national average and higher income.

"Agriculture is still Maryland's number one industry," said Maryland's Secretary of Agriculture Wayne A. Cawley Jr.

"The financial position of the majority of Maryland agricultural operations is relatively strong. Our debt is not overwhelming and we can still make money. Credit for this goes to the ingenuity and stubbornness of the Maryland family farmer. We are a sturdy lot," Cawley said.

Fifty-nine percent of Maryland farm operators carry no farm related debt. At the same time, Maryland cash farm income averaged \$29,075 in 1988 up 8 percent over 1987. The Maryland Department of Agriculture expects 1989 farm income to top all previous highs.

DHIA members will be seeing an increase in state fees, according to Robert Kindig, Pennsylvania DHIA representative and president of the National DHIA. There will be a \$.05 increase on all herds and \$.01 increase on somatic cell tests.

Conversely, members will see a reduced price on a few state DHIA services such as some ARIS services.

"One of the most exciting developments on the state and national level is the pro staph test (researchers are working on)," said Kindig. The staph test is expected to indicate the presence of staph aureus

using the same sample currently being drawn.

The probable charge for this test will be \$2.60 for members.

The test will utilize the ELIZA testing method, which may lead to a new test that would indicate the presence of strep type. Also, according to Kindig, there is a chance that researchers may be

able to develop a test for Johnes. But this is several years down the road.

On the national level, Kindig reported that the association's magazine is no longer being published due to publishing difficulties. Association officials are trying to get national information published in "Hoard's Dairyman."

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