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Keystone Shepherds' Symposium Educational Session Discusses Diagnosing Lamb Mortality

BY LISA RISSER

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Sheep and wool producers flocked to Lancaster County last weekend to learn the latest news and products available to them at the Keystone Shepherds' Symposium.

A tour of county operations on Thursday kicked off the three-day event. Exhibitors displayed their wares on Friday and Saturday and updated attendees on the newest product information. Also occurring on Friday and Saturday were educational sessions such as diagnosing lamb mortality, ventilating sheep facilities, and small business management skills.

A high point on Saturday was the crowning of the new Pennsylvania Sheep & Wool Growers' Association Lamb & Wool Queen. The 1988 queen, Carla Clutter, passed on her royal duties to Julie Maust of Somerset County. Also that day, creative seamstresses competed in the Make-it-Yourself-With Wool Contest, and the contestants modeled their garments after lunch.

(Turn to Page A34)

With Newspaper Bedding, Farmers May Lower Costs Reduce Landfill Problems

BY
EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

NEW HOLLAND (Lancaster Co.)—Because of the high cost of bedding materials for livestock, farmers are ready to look at shredded news print as an alternative to keep their animals warm and dry. And because of the environmentally initiated mandate to recycle as much of America's trash as possible, the general public is ready to give farmers all the newspapers they can use.

At one of several informational barn meetings on the subject, Glenn Shirk, Lancaster County agent, said there is a demand for paper and there is a supply of paper, but it's hard to get the demand and supply together. "Our society is a great generator of waste," Shirk said. "And up to now, it has been convenient to dump papers on the truck and put them into landfills and bury them. But there must be a better way. Maybe the

(Turn to Page A29)

Holiday Deadlines

The Lancaster Farming office will be closed Monday, December 25, in observance of Christmas. Deadlines for the December 30 issue are as follows:

- Mailbox Market Ads — 5:00 p.m. Friday.
- Public Sale Ads — 5:00 p.m. Friday.
- General News — 5:00 p.m. Wednesday.
- Late Breaking News — Noon Thursday.
- Classified Section B Ads — 5:00 p.m. Wednesday.
- All other classified Ads — 9:00 a.m., Thursday.



Julie Maust, from Somerset County, wears the 1989-90 Pennsylvania Lamb and Wool Queen crown. Carla Clutter, former queen, crowned Julie at the Keystone Shepherds' Symposium held in Lancaster on December 7, 8, and 9. Turn to page B3, to learn more about Julie. Photo by Lou Ann Goed.

Mid-Atlantic Conservation Tillage Conference Do You Have The Right To Farm?

BY PAT PURCELL
TIMONIUM, MD — "It isn't enough just to be farming anymore. You have to prove you are doing the right thing."

That was the advice to the hundreds of farmers and educators who braved the snowy, icy roads to Timonium for the Mid-Atlantic Conservation Tillage Conference on Wednesday.

"Do You Have The Right To

Farm?" was the focus of the 16th annual conference. The environmental issues with which farmers must deal are piling up. How these issues are handled by the media and by local as well as national government will determine the future of agriculture. The aim of this year's conference was to show farmers how they can survive in spite of these issues.

"In general, consumers are

ignorant. They know very little about the food chain. Most consumers are not familiar with farming. It's up to you to educate them," advised Kathy Zar Pepler of Zar Communications, Toledo, Ohio.

With groups such as the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) using such scare tactics as 'our children are being poisoned at the dinner table' because of pesti-

cide use, specifically Alar, and being able to obtain an annual budget of \$11 million to launch further campaigns, the time for farmers to prepare their own public relations push is now.

Farmers' 'right to farm' is being questioned by more groups than the NRDC. "For instance, 215 different organizations had position papers related to the 1985 Food Security Act and over 100 groups

had lobbyists in our nation's capital working the issue. No wonder it is no longer known as the Farm Bill," Jim Porterfield told the conference attendees. Porterfield is the association director of the American Farm Bureau's Natural and Environmental Resources Division.

The interest of outside groups will be even greater in the 1990 farm legislation, according to Porterfield and Peter Myers who is president of The Farm Credit Council in Washington, D.C. Myers, formerly a crop and livestock farmer from Missouri, has been serving agriculture in Washington, D.C. since 1982 when he became chief of the USDA's Soil Conservation Service. He also served a year as assistant secretary of agriculture and nearly three years as deputy secretary of agriculture.

Myers reiterated the advice from Pepler that farmers should

RCMA Conducts Successful Annual Meeting

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Congressman James Walsh and New York State Senator Nancy Lorraine Hoffmann spoke to delegates at the Regional Cooperative Marketing Agency Inc. (RCMA) annual meeting to express their support for the organization's efforts to improve the income of dairy farmers.

Congressman Walsh, the only New York Representative who serves on the House of Repre-

sentatives Agriculture Committee, acknowledged RCMA's stabilizing influence in the milk marketplace of the Northeast.

Sen. Hoffmann, a member of New York's Agriculture Committee and a longtime supporter of RCMA, pointed with pride to the premiums disbursed by RCMA to dairy farmers.

"You have proven through your efforts that dairy farmers can work together to help each other," she

said.

RCMA distributed nearly \$42 million to its 22,000 dairy farmer members during the fiscal year that ran from July 1988 through June 1989. Nearly \$67 million was paid to dairy farmers in two complete years of RCMA efforts.

"That's the success story," Senator Hoffmann told the delegates gathered at the Sheraton Inn in Syracuse on Dec. 8. "You were able to provide premiums to dairy

farmers when they needed additional money."

President William G. Zuber echoed those thoughts during his address to the delegates. "No other organization can claim that kind of success," he said. "No other organization can claim that kind of direct financial support for dairy farmers.

"While we were putting millions of dollars into dairy farmers'

(Turn to Page A21)

(Turn to Page A28)