

Snyder Co. Cooperative Examine Controversial Issues

MIDDLEBURG (Snyder Co.) — Bovine Somatotropin is controversial, more so among farmers than any other segment of the population. Unfortunately, where controversy exists, decisions based on rumor and lack of good information are rife. The job of Cooperative Extension is education, even when the subject is controversial.

The Snyder and Montour County Extension offices are planning a Dairy Day on January 16, 1990 at the Buggytown USA Restaurant on Rt. 45 in Mifflinburg. The theme of the entire day is bST. The purpose is to examine all the facts related to the use of this compound which will potentially be FDA-approved in 1990.

The lineup of speakers include Dr. Mike O'Connor of the Penn State Dairy Extension faculty. He

will talk about the research related to milk response from cows and herds at all levels of production, effect on feed efficiency, how it will be recommended for use, the human safety factor and more.

Dr. Robert Yonkers of the Penn State Department of Ag Economics will discuss the effect on the national milk supply, prices and milk policy. In addition, he will discuss the probable effects on

Pennsylvania farms and their survivability whether or not they use bST.

Tom Craig, a dairyman from Centre County will talk about his experience with this compound while a research trial was conducted on his farm. His practical insight should be a real highlight of the program.

In the afternoon, Dr. John Ferry, a veterinarian from Adams, NY and columnist in American Agriculturist, will speak about managing a herd on bST from a vet's point of view. His practice in upstate NY includes herds on bST research trials.

Robert Schmieder, a representative of Weis Markets of Sunbury will present his company's viewpoint of milk from bST-treated cows. As a large retailer of milk and dairy products the viewpoint of Weis Markets is important. He will discuss the considerations that go into their marketing of a product and their responsibilities related to consumer education.

A panel discussion of all the speakers should clear up any remaining questions. We may not all agree on bST, but it is important that whatever decision is made, by a dairy farmer and by a milk retailer, is made based on fact, not fiction.

Everyone is invited to this Dairy Day on January 16, 1990. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. with the program starting promptly at 9:45. Various ag businesses who are helping to sponsor this meeting will be present to talk business with you.

Send or call your reservation into the Snyder County Extension office, Courthouse, PO Box 217, Middleburg, PA 17842 (717) 837-4252. Reservations which include lunch, a coffee break and any handout materials, cost \$6.00 and should be made by January 8.

Plan to come, bring your spouse, farm employees and your neighbor. This will probably be the last Extension meeting in this area on this subject before bST's pending approval.

Dairyalea to Hold Farm Management Workshops

SYRACUSE, NY — To help its members become better farm managers, Dairyalea Cooperative Inc., is sponsoring a series of two-session workshops in three-states.

"As owners of agribusinesses, farmers should strive to make their farm operations profitable and produce a reasonable return on investment," said Clyde Rutherford, president of the cooperative. "Dairyalea's mission is to improve returns and provide valued services to help members reduce their costs, thereby increasing net income," he said.

In order to help achieve this mis-

sion, Rutherford said Dairyalea is sponsoring the workshops in Vermont, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Attendance at the first session is required in order to participate in the second session.

The workshops are designed to assist dairy farm managers in identifying and capitalizing on farm opportunities. In addition to hosting the workshop sessions, the Cooperative is reimbursing members for course-related expenses.

Workshops are scheduled:

- Jan. 10 and Jan. 24 in State College, Pa., at the Autoport Motel. The sessions are to run both days from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- Jan. 8 and Jan. 22 at the Sugar House Restaurant in Middlebury, Vt., from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- Jan. 9 and Jan. 23 at Warren County Cooperative Extension Office in Belvidere, N.J., from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For specific information on workshop registration, call 1-800-654-8838.

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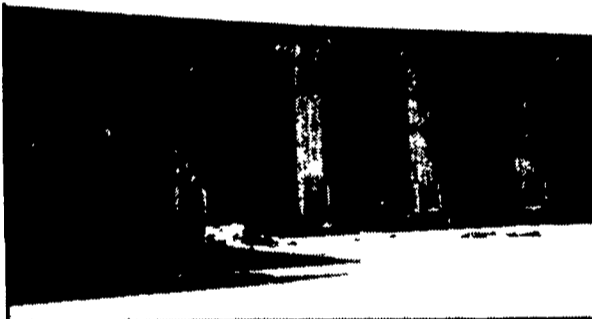
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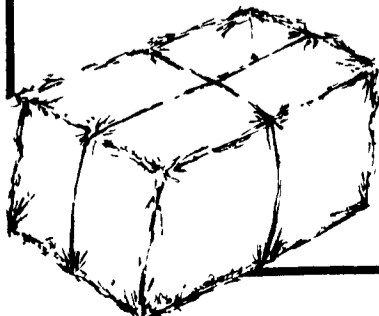
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