

Kindig Discusses State DHIA Reorganization At Berks County Banquet

BY VALERIE VAN TASSEL
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KUTZTOWN (Berks Co.) — "It is difficult for well-run local DHIA organizations such as Berks and Lancaster counties to accept the need for reorganization on the state level. We have to weigh the goods and bads of everything across the state," explained national president J. Robert Kindig at the Berks County DHIA banquet held earlier this month at the Kutztown Grange. Kindig shared his thoughts on the importance of reorganization.

"There are small counties where there just aren't enough herds on test to support a full-time supervisor. Pay varies between counties, and while some counties are able to hire excellent employees, others are not. In some counties, there is even a waiting list. If a dairyman wants his herd on test he should be able to have his animals tested the next month. We have even found herds that haven't been contacted about DHIA testing," Kindig stated. He added that *Lancaster Farming* will be running a column containing DHIA information.

"In the next two years we want

to sit down and work out a transfer program. The treasures of different local organizations vary considerably and equipment ownership also differs from place to place," Kindig said.

Kindig also shared his positive perspective on the national board with his audience. "There are 12 members on the board, and we average approximately 44 years old. All of us are under a cow at least twice a day when we're home. The largest dairy is 1,500 cows and there are a couple of 50- to 60-cow operations."

"It's hard to relate to the needs of the large herds in such places as Texas and California. We have to seek common needs. We're working on labor-efficient records to benefit those herds that are already keeping records via computer. It's hard to convince these people to go on test. We would test them three or four times a year. We are trying to keep as many herds on test as possible," Kindig said.

"There was no longer any national magazine. The magazine had been published by an independent organization and though no fault of its own it will no longer be published. Instead there will be a newsletter in the *Hoard's Dairyman* six times a year."

During the business meeting, a cost increase of 10 cents for twice a day, nine cents for once a day and five cents for owner sampler was announced. "Five cents of this will go to the state organization," Gross stated.

Extension agent Clyde Meyers brought a sample of the newspaper bedding that will be available in the future and announced that the Land Preservation Committee is taking applications for the purchase of land development rights.

Two perennial favorites split the dairy awards. Hiddenview Holsteins of Robesonia continued their winning ways by topping the herd milk and herd protein contest and placing second in the herd butterfat competition. Owned by Timothy and Teresa Kissling, Hiddenview has been honored in the herd awards for the last ten years.

Junge Farms of New Tripoli in Lehigh County topped the herd butterfat list and placed second in the herd milk and protein contests. According to herd manager Ray Moyer, Junge placed second in the fat competition last year.

Ray Seidel's herd average an increase of 2,328 pounds of milk this year to capture the most-improved herd for milk award. Improvements for fat and protein resulted in two ties. Wooden Bridge Farm and Daryl and Michele Kunkel shared the fat award with an increase of 90 pounds. Charles Wagner and E. Daniel Leatherman both added 74 pounds of protein to their herd averages to win the protein award.

For the first time Hiddenview Holsteins won the low somatic cell contest with a count of 150,000. Teresa, who does most of the milking, said that while they don't take any unusual steps to keep their SCC low they do use teat dip. Harold Schuler's herd came in second place with a count of 165,000. According to Clyde Meyers a total of 14 herds had SCC of less than 200,000. "The somatic cell count is one of the best things you can get out of DHIA," he added.

Heindel Farms had the top producing Ayrshire, Jean, with 18,852 pounds of milk, 760 pounds of fat, and 621 pounds of protein. The Seidel family, includ-

ing Glenn, Jane, and Glen's mother, Grace, ended up with the unusual combination of Ayrshires and Holsteins by accident. "We use to have just Ayrshires. It was about 30 years ago that my husband went to a sale in New York State. The Ayrshires were very expensive so he brought 20 Holsteins instead," Grace explained. According to the family the Lee cow, a 16-year-old Holstein with a high lifetime production, is a descendent of those sale animals. "She is rated 92 or 93," Jane added.

Several other farms walked away with all the breed honors. Sam Yoder topped the Milking Shorthorn breed with Roncher, who produced 18,939 pounds of milk, 606 pounds of protein and 585 pounds of protein.

Robert and Helene Driesbach owned the top-producing Jerseys, Fantasy, with 18,670 pounds of milk, and Belinda, with 965 pounds of fat and 702 pounds of protein.

Coco80 owned by Carl Hollenbach was the top Guernsey for milk with 16,874 pounds and protein 571 pounds. Another Hollenbach animal, Mirth71 produced 756 pounds of fat.

James Farr's Red and Whites

had an excellent evening with Tina topping the milk and protein categories with 20,043 pounds and 622 pounds respectively. Becky, another Farr entry, had 769 pounds of fat.

The highest-producing animal in the county was Meg, owned by Hiddenview Holsteins. Her record of 33,579 pounds made her a real stand out. Thel, owned by WM Howerter topped the butterfat and protein categories with 1,348 and 1,160 pounds respectively.

Brown Swiss owners split their awards. Gretle, owned by Richard Hoffman, produced 17,471 pounds. Another Hoffman Swiss, Bandy, was the top-protein entry with 558 pounds. L and L Farms had the top fat producer, Candy, with 750 pounds.

Doris Troutman, county secretary, presented service awards to the supervisors including: Robert Keppley, 33 years; Donald Lutz, 26 years; Raymond Yaggie, 23 years; Carol Spatz, 11 years; JoAnn Moser, 10 years; Ella Bicksler, 6 years; Jerru Berks, 2 years and Bruce Latshaw, 2 years.

Supervisors also received incentives for accuracy. Yaggie, the Lyon Station Supervisor, received the top award.

Elk Township Board Recognized For Ag Security Area Designation

WEST CHESTER (Chester Co.) — The Chester County Board of Commissioners and Agricultural Development Council recently recognized the Elk Township Board of Supervisors for their recent action to approve an Agricultural Security Area. Their action gave Chester County in excess of 50,000 acres designated in approved Agricultural Security Areas. Chester County now has 22 Agricultural Security Areas with 52,382 acres included. The Pennsylvania Department of

Agriculture reports that Chester County has the most Agricultural Security Areas of any county in the Commonwealth.

Agricultural Security Areas, permitted by PA Act 43, as amended, give farm owners protection from nuisance regulations, protection from condemnation of farmland, and eligibility for the new agricultural conservation easement program. Thus, they form the geographic basis for the permanent preservation of Chester County farmland.



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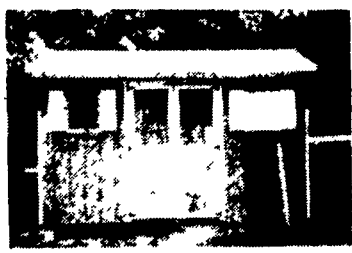


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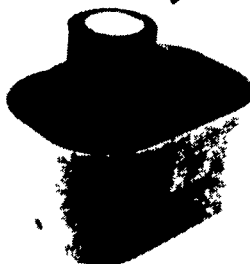
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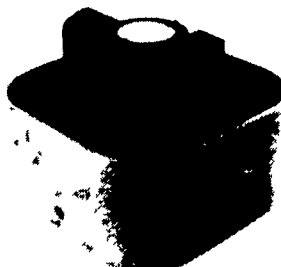
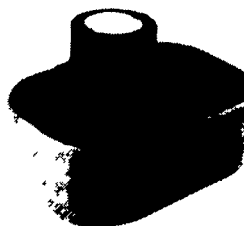
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