

Lancaster Farming

VOL. 35 No. 15

50¢ Per Copy

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, February 17, 1990

Six Sections

\$12.50 Per Year

Kutztown's Vo-Ag Benefits Aired At Public Forum

VAL VANTASSEL

Berks Co. Correspondent
KUTZTOWN, (Berks Co.) —

Nancy Unger isn't a farmer, but she said she knows a good thing when she sees one.

"Agriculture is the best kept secret in the entire (Kutztown) school," Unger said. "I have been subbing in the ag department and I can't believe all the things they teach there; things like science and computer training. We have got to let the kids know what vocational agriculture is all about."

Unger, a substitute teacher in the Kutztown School District, was

just one of 14 speakers who expressed their support for the district's agricultural program, during a special Kutztown School Board meeting held Monday in the high school auditorium.

About 175 people attended the 1½-hour meeting, held to discuss the future of the district vocational agriculture program. In addition to school board members, district administrative officials were also present.

Problems within the district's vo-ag program have been growing for some time, according to reports from people close to the issue.

However, the seriousness of the situation didn't become public until recently.

Members of the Kutztown Advisory Council said that during a Feb. 6 meeting, Monte Schroeder, school board president, reported that the 1½ teaching positions allocated to the vo-ag department had been reduced to just one position.

This happened when the full-time teacher, Donald Reinert, took sabbatical leave, before the start of school year. In Reinert's stead, part time teacher Dr. Jerry Cal now teaches some of those subjects.

Apparently Cal will be eliminated when Reinert returns.

"Monte Schroeder, school board president, informed us that the half-time position held by Dr. Cal was eliminated when he took over the full time position," Reinert said. "We also learned that the administration and school board were considering other options including closing the department," Reinert explained.

During Monday's meeting, Dr. Richard Karr, superintendent of the district, enumerated the problems with the department, as he sees them. He also gave possible

options for future agricultural instruction in the district.

Among the problems mentioned was low enrollment.

Karr had stated that there were only 22 vocational agriculture students, according to published reports prior to the meeting.

In his presentation Monday, the superintendent corrected the number to 23 fulltime students who take 10 periods of ag each week thus qualifying for vocational status.

A completed breakdown of program enrollment given to the
(Turn to Page A32)

Maryland's New DHIA Programs Emphasize Management And Market Values

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

COLLEGE PARK, MD—In an effort to recognize dairy farmers who have good management practices, as well as good production records, the Maryland Dairy Herd Improvement Association (DHIA) has initiated a new program called Herd Management Awards (HMA).

In addition, except for lifetime milk and fat records, all the production records that are honored in the state this year will have a combination of milk, fat and protein formulated into the recognition. This formulation is called the Energy Corrected Milk (ECM).

Both these programs are designed to de-emphasize the mad scramble to produce high milk or fat records at any cost, and to give the producers more incentive to use DHIA the way it was intended—as a management tool to increase bottom line profits.

"We are focusing on additional reasons why dairymen must have DHIA," said Dr. Lee Majeski, associate professor, University of Maryland. With DHIA, we need to offer complete records for all management purposes, or the producers don't need DHIA."

That's why the HMA program includes the major factors that go into a good bottom line. In fact, the program uses 18 parameters to

decide which cow and herd should be honored. They are:

Herd size-related to labor force. Maybe you can care for 50 cows with your present help, but to have 150 cows would change your labor needs and therefore the bottom line in your operation.

Production components- points are awarded for herds with averages above breed average in milk, fat, and protein.

Genetic information-cow PTAS, sire PTAS and service sire

PTAS are automatically included. Since the future herd depends on the service sires, greater weight is placed on this factor.

Peak production-the new herd summary report shows the amount and the time when the cow reaches peak production within the first 90 days of lactation. In the past, it was generally thought the peak production would come around 40 to 50 days. But in Maryland herds over 20,000 pounds of milk, they are not reaching peak production until

about 60 days.

Average days in milk at first service-greater than 85 days and less than 50 days get no points. The former indicator of a calf each year now seems to not be feasible. In Maryland, the average calving interval is about 13.5 months which, according to Majeski, is a little long. "We would like to see herds average less than 70 days to get cows bred back," he said.

Days open, services per conception and percent of first ser-

vice conceptions—all these variables are very important to the bottom line profit but may be ignored in the quest for super high production records.

Somatic cell count-very important if you want to produce a quality product.

Lifetime production-looks at pounds of milk produced per day over 24 months of age. If your heifers are calving at, say, 30 months, those first lactation heifers will be

(Turn to Page A36)

Lancaster Gears Up For County Ag Coordinator

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.)—With the support of an impressive list of blue chip businesses and organizations, both farm and non-farm, the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce Agriculture Committee is ready to take applications for a county ag coordinator. This announcement was made Thursday morning at the monthly Agricultural Issues Forum held at Kreider's Restaurant, Manheim.

Ken Rutt, Edgefield Farms, Quarryville, and past chairman of the committee outlined the background and the hopes for the new county effort to improve agricul-

(Turn to Page A23)



Ken Rutt outlines the new ag coordinator job description at the Agricultural Issues Forum.

Rabies: It's Here Again!

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
PRESCOTT (Lebanon Co.) —

A new strain of rabies has been detected and Pennsylvania farmers and outdoor enthusiasts are advised to take precautions, a Berks County-based veterinarian said this week.

According to officials, 700 animals were confirmed positive state-wide last year, the highest number since 1945.

But now there's a new twist to the rabies scare: officials are pre-

dicting that the disease will be a health concern for at least 10 more years.

Dr. M. Lynn Sammons, veterinarian at Willow Creek Animal Hospital, said Thursday that rabies in Pennsylvania is now expected to continue for at least a decade. He said he recommends that all people who regularly handle animals should have themselves vaccinated against the disease.

—He also said that farmers and others who own cats should be advised that the cats need annual

booster shots. Dogs can go three years between booster shots after initial vaccinations.

Two years ago, Sammons had predicted that the rabies outbreak would probably fade out in three to four years.

Sammons said he has updated that prediction because a new strain of rabies is starting up in south central counties and will be heading back through counties already infected.

According to the veterinarian,
(Turn to Page A43)

Keystone Pork Congress Set This Wednesday

CAMP HILL (Cumberland Co.) — Educational seminars at the 12th annual Keystone Pork Congress (KPC) in the coming week will focus on the animal welfare movement.

The KPC will be held Feb. 21 at the Penn Harris Inn in Camp Hill. Featured speakers will be Dr. Stanley Curtis, a world authority on animal behavior, swine facilities, and equipment. Christine Stevens, president of the Animal Welfare Institute, will provide the audience

with a first-hand view of what the animal welfare movement wants to accomplish.

The KPC will feature approximately 40 commercial exhibits. Topics included will be a hog market outlook, an overview of National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) programs, and a junior speaking contest. The Pork Council Women's Program will also feature a speaking contest. The Keystone Pork Bowl is also scheduled.