Atlantic Breeders, Extension Share Dairy Day Spotlight

BY JOYCE BUPP York Co. Correspondent SEVEN VALLEYS (York Co.)— Atlantic Breeders

Cooperative honored four of its top-producing member herds during York County's annual dairy day, hosted at the Seven Valleys Fire Hall on February 8.

Recipients of certificates of merit from the Lancaster-based breeding cooperative were Smyser's Richlawn Farm, Sinking Springs Farm, B. Robert Charles, and Ray Doll. Smyser's Richlawn Farm, York, topped the list, milking a herd of 74 head, with a herd average of 25,509 milk and 841 fat.

Sinking Springs Farm, York, was recognized for its milking string of 66-head producing 20,179 milk and 771 fat. B. Robert Charles milks 49 head on his Dover farm, with a herd average of 19,501 milk and 725 fat. Ray Doll maintains a herd of 51 head on his Long Hill Farm, averaging 18,598 milk and 692 fat.

To qualify for Atlantic's certificate of merit, a herd must average at least 10 percent above the state average for milk and butterfat, and comprise more than two-thirds progeny of Atlantic sires.

Director Earl Fuhrman reviewed the cooperative activities during the District 6 annual meeting. Atlantic Breeders' annual financial report for 1989 shows a positive picture of the cooperative's operations. Net savings from business amounted to \$383,256, resulting in a patronage dividend of 6.7 percent.

Four members were nominated as candidates from District 6 to Atlantic's resource-promotion committee, Nominees are Harry Bickel, Airville, Frank Feeser, Hanover, Richard Foster, Parkton, Maryland, and W. Allen Galbreath, Street, Maryland. Election results will be announced when



Atlantic Breeders area technician Larry Amspacher, left, presented certificate of merit awards to, from left, Dan Rice, Robert Charles and Robert Smyser.

are complete.

Mastitis management Extension veterinarian Dr. Lar-

ry Hutchinson took his audience

membership meetings in the area of dairy producers on a slide-trip review of herd milking management. Dr. Hutchinson focused on dipping results in the reduction of cleanliness and care of that most about 50 percent of occurrences of

and teats.

Studies have shown that prevital part of a milking cow, udders new quarter-infections of mastitis,

> says the Penn State extension vet. One side benefit is the elimination of too much water used for cleaning udders, especially in milking parlor operations.

> A low-level iodine-base product is recommended, prefcrably with iodine percentage at 0.1 to 0.25-percent. Dip should remain on teats for 30 seconds to effectively kill bacteria present, then be wiped dry with a clean paper towel. If udders are excessively dirty, teats should be washed before dipping.

> Post-dip is even more important, stresses Dr. Hutchinson. While pre-dipping works mostly with environmental bacteria, post-dipping is effective against contagious mastitis pathogens.

> Dairymen should also exercise extreme care when inserting treatment tubes into a quarter, Dr. Hutchinson warns. Treatment tube cannulas can effectively carry a wide range of bacteria into the fragile environment of an udder. Partial insertion of the tube is less likely to damage the tcat canal and offers less chance for adding bacteria to a quarter.

Read It - Chop It - Bed It

With Pennsylvania disposing of 3.5 million tons of paper annually, the use of paper for livestock bedding is generating plenty of dairymen interest.

Newspaper is many times more absorbent than either straw or sawdust, according to extension's area ag engincer Dan McFarland. While newspaper is getting positive acceptance, magazines pose the hazard of staples, offer much less absorbency and certain computer paper has been found to cause teat irritation. Studies also show slower growth of mastitis-causing bacteria in chopped newspaper than in many other bedding materials.

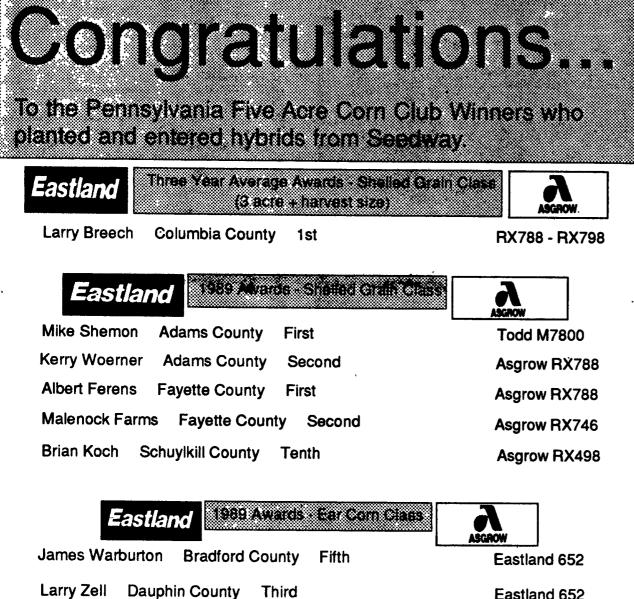
McFarland recommends a layer of straw be applied over a concrete housing-area floor before putting down chopper paper, to avoid problem of stickiness. Bedding at frequent intervals with small amounts is also recommended. He projects that many farmers will ultimately bed with blends of chopped newspaper and straw.

Newspaper has been found to decompose quickly when spread with manure in fields.

"Liquid manure handles it best," says the engineer, "but daily spreading is okay. Some caution should be used in bedding with chopped newspaper in gravity flow systems; it may be necessary to add extra water."

Manure analysis on newspaper-bedding has been positive in comparison to that of sawdust and hays. Heavy metal levels are lower than those usually found in fields spread with straw-manure.

Other speakers on the dairy day program included Naomi Spahr, for Dairy of Distinction awards, extension area management agent Roland Freund and Bob McMil-



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Robert Kroboth - Nazareth, PA "I plant Asgrow brand soybeans because they yield and they stand" (at right)



len, of Miracle Feeds.

