

# Atlantic Breeders, Extension Share Dairy Day Spotlight

**BY JOYCE BUFP**  
 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 Smysers' Richlawn Farm, Sinking Springs Farm, B. Robert Charles, and Ray Doll. Smysers' 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 Ampacher, left, presented certificate of merit awards to, from left, Dan Rice, Robert Charles and Robert Smyser.

membership meetings in the area are complete.

**Mastitis management**  
 Extension veterinarian Dr. Larry Hutchinson took his audience

of dairy producers on a slide-trip review of herd milking management. Dr. Hutchinson focused on cleanliness and care of that most vital part of a milking cow, udders

and teats.

Studies have shown that pre-dipping results in the reduction of about 50 percent of occurrences of 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, preferably 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 teat 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 engineer 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 McMullen, of Miracle Feeds.

# Congratulations...

To the Pennsylvania Five Acre Corn Club Winners who planted and entered hybrids from Seedway.



Three Year Average Awards - Shelled Grain Class  
 (3 acre + harvest size)



Larry Breech Columbia County 1st

RX788 - RX798



1989 Awards - Shelled Grain Class



Mike Shemon Adams County First

Todd M7800

Kerry Woerner Adams County Second

Asgrow RX788

Albert Ferens Fayette County First

Asgrow RX788

Malenock Farms Fayette County Second

Asgrow RX746

Brian Koch Schuylkill County Tenth

Asgrow RX498



1989 Awards - Ear Corn Class



James Warburton Bradford County Fifth

Eastland 652

Larry Zell Dauphin County Third

Eastland 652

Robert Stola Luzerne County Second

Asgrow RX626

William H. Schultz Montour County First

Todd M7800

(Todd M7800 is a Seedway hybrid)

## ASGROW SOYBEAN

Seed performance leads the way.....

Blair Courter - Mill Hall, PA. "Asgrow A3127 is the variety that I tried first, three years ago. I tried another brand but I'm growing Asgrow soybeans now because they yielded more. The Asgrow's have real good standability, too." (at left)

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



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