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Teachers Learn Beef Production

WOMELSDORF (Berks Co.) — Teachers from Berks County got a taste of the beef business recently when they visited several beef farms in the county, along with a family-owned butcher shop and a retail supermarket that features a modern meat department.

The tour was organized by the Berks County Cattlemen's Association in cooperation with the "Ag In The Classroom" program.

Twenty educators from 10 different school districts represented a variety of levels of school curriculum and grades. They were greeted by Sheila Miller, president of the Berks Cattlemen, and Geri Gammel, treasurer.

After a brief discussion of the beef business and checkoff program by Beef Council's executive director Dave Ivan, the caravan of

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Poultry Seminar Held For Home Economists

LOU ANN GOOD

Lancaster Farming Staff

LITITZ (Lancaster Co.) — "If we are going to solve the salmonella problem, we must educate the public on good food handling practices," Dr. John Schwartz, poultry extension agent, told about 90 home economists on Monday night.

The poultry industry is tired of being blamed for food poisoning episodes that reveal sloppy food

handling practices by vendors.

"Eggs are safe if handled properly," Schwartz told the Lancaster and Lebanon home economists gathered at the General Sutter Inn for their annual banquet sponsored by the Lancaster County Poultry Association and the extension office.

Eggs natural defense

Schwartz explained that the inside of a newly laid egg does not

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What could be finer than a balmy spring day spent with your favorite Appaloosa? "Nothing!"

At least that's what Allison Farrington (right) and her sister Alida Burkholder said Tuesday afternoon when this photographer visited their family horse farm in northern Lancaster County. Lower Hopewell Farm is noted for breeding registered Appaloosas and a long list of show winnings. Owned by Mr. and Mrs. John A. Farrington, a number of horses are boarded for other owners as well as a long list of family pets from peacocks to guineas to rabbits to a new spring foal named Patric. In fact, the variety of animals that live at Lower Hopewell has prompted a little sign to designate the distance between the old bank barn and the new horse barn as "Zoo Lane." In the photo, Dancing Demon is with Allison and Inexcess of Straw is with Alida. Photo by Everett Newswanger.

Soybean Associations Recognize Farmer

ANDY ANDREWS

Lancaster Farming Staff

MT. JOY (Lancaster Co.) — All it took was time to fill out a two-page questionnaire. But it also required a lot of insight into how to market and distribute soybeans throughout the world that helped net a Mt. Joy dairy and poultry farmer, as well as regional grain distributor, the coveted DuPont Young Leader Award.

Jim Musser was recognized by the Mid-Atlantic Soybean Association and the American Soybean Association (ASA) as this year's winner of the award.

About the questionnaire, Musser said, "They asked what innovative production methods you used . . . what innovative marketing tools you use to get a better price for your beans . . . and they ask for

your thoughts on how you think beans can better be utilized abroad or at home. I filled it out and I guess they liked my answers."

Keeping busy is natural for Musser, who divides his time between his 130-acre dairy and poultry farm and the full-time grain elevator, M & R Grains, Inc., where he is in business partnership with his father, Harold Musser.

Farm 130 acres

The Mussers (Jim's wife Sue and their four sons, Matt, Brett, Dustin, and Cody) farm 130 acres and rent about 260 acres. Musser manages 52 head of Holstein and raises corn, wheat, barley, soybean, and alfalfa. In addition, Musser raises 150,000 hens for his full-time layer operation. The lay-

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Brown Cow Lays Golden Eggs

VERNON ACHENBACH, JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff

FONTANA (Lebanon Co.) — Unlike the goose, the cow that lays the golden egg is no symbolic creature of a fable.

There's at least one very real cow in Lebanon County that seems to be providing eggs for embryonic transfer worth much more than their weight in gold. And, funny enough, it's not a Holstein.

In the ever-competitive world of dairy breeding and the search for the elusive perfect animal, a Brown Swiss strain owned by 28-year-old Gary Mase may be holding the magic genetic combination every dairyman is looking for.

Times have changed somewhat as to what the best cow will look like and what it will do. Most dairymen own Holsteins and have

said, in effect, that the super-strain dairy cows are somehow locked into the Holstein breed. A lot of work and research has been devoted toward the breed.

The other dairy cattle breeds, generally called colored breeds, have, over the years, been looked down upon as somewhat inferior. Complaints about too little milk production are largely to blame.

Each breed has its advocates, some of them strongly opinionated; however, milkhouse production and cost effectiveness are usually considered the bottom line in selecting a breed for commercial milk production.

Mase's registered Brown Swiss not only have put an end to that production complaint of the breed, but have a growing number of dairymen taking a second look at

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Newly crowned York Dairy Princess Angle Lang and Dairy Miss Jessica Pomraning look forward to dairy promotional activities. For pageant details, turn to page B13.

National Milk Veterinarians Hope To Launch Quality Assurance Program

FREDERICK, MD — The National Milk Producers Federation has joined forces with the American Veterinary Medical Association to develop a plan that dairy industry officials hope will put an end to the negative publicity sparked by reports of drug residues in milk.

The so-called "quality assurance protocol" is designed to further reduce the incidence of violative residues — those that

exceed tolerances or other public health limits set by the federal Food and Drug Administration — according to John Adams, director of milk safety and animal health for National Milk.

Numerous farm organizations, including the American Farm Bureau Federation and the National Dairy Herd Improvement Association, recently endorsed the program at a meeting in Washington. The plan has the blessing of

U.S. Department of Agriculture and FDA officials as well.

This fall, the sponsors hope to officially launch a campaign to educate farmers and veterinarians about the program. The National Beef Promotion and Research Board has committed \$325,000 to the project, which also involves drug residues in meat, according to Adams. The sponsors hope to receive the remainder of a price

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