

Dairy Of Distinction Seeks

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apply for the award. Deadlining for applications is April 15, 1991. Judging takes place in the month of May and is based on the roadside appearance of buildings, grounds and surroundings. The states are divided into districts and a local committee oversees the program in each district. A team of judges designated by the local committee visits each farm and uses a score sheet to rate each farm. In Pennsylvania, in addition to this team of judges, the sanitarian for the farm's cooperative or dealer-handler is asked to be part of the judging process.

"One of the things I always tell people is that even though they may not now have the most fancy place, they can work toward the principles of the Dairy of Distinction program," Nichols said. "By doing this, they work toward a goal that encourages consumers to use more dairy products."

Winners receive a colorful, 18x24-inch Dairy of Distinction sign to be placed at the entrance to the farmstead. In addition, as in past years, an 11x14-inch color portrait of the farm will be given by *Lancaster Farming* to each winning farm in the Pennsylvania program.

"As a dairy farmer, you work hard all year long taking care of your farm," said Helen Fountain, program executive secretary. "In addition to managing your herd, there are lawns to mow, flowers to plant, and overall maintenance to keep farm buildings looking great. You deserve to be recognized for all the hard work, dedication and pride you put into your farmstead.

"It's time to apply for you and

Eastern Milk To Meet

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — For the second time in its 69-year history, Eastern Milk Producers Cooperative will hold its semi-annual Delegate Meeting outside of New York State, Eastern President Lewis Gardner announced.

It will be held March 12 at the Gennetti-Lycoming Hotel in Williamsport.

"While taking a hard look at where we want to be in the 21st century, and at how we can attract members, communicate with them and better serve them, it was only natural for the board to decide to hold the March Delegate Meeting in Pennsylvania again," Gardner said. "We have a heavy concentration of members in that state even though our membership spans an area from Vermont to Delaware."

Gardner noted that the Annual Meeting in October would still be held in Syracuse, N.Y., where the dairy co-op is headquartered.

In announcing the March Delegate Meeting, Gardner said the cooperative principle of farmers working together "is more important than ever in this year of plummeting milk prices and unstable market conditions."

The meeting is expected to attract about 250 delegates, officers and spouses from Eastern's 12 districts and 94 locals covering nine states.

Among the topics to be discussed:

- Market conditions in the Northeast and Eastern's plans to improve milk prices for farmers.

- Eastern's marketing campaign for the rest of the 1990s.

- The realigning of districts to reflect new membership numbers.

- A new spirit aimed at bringing the co-op into the 21st century.

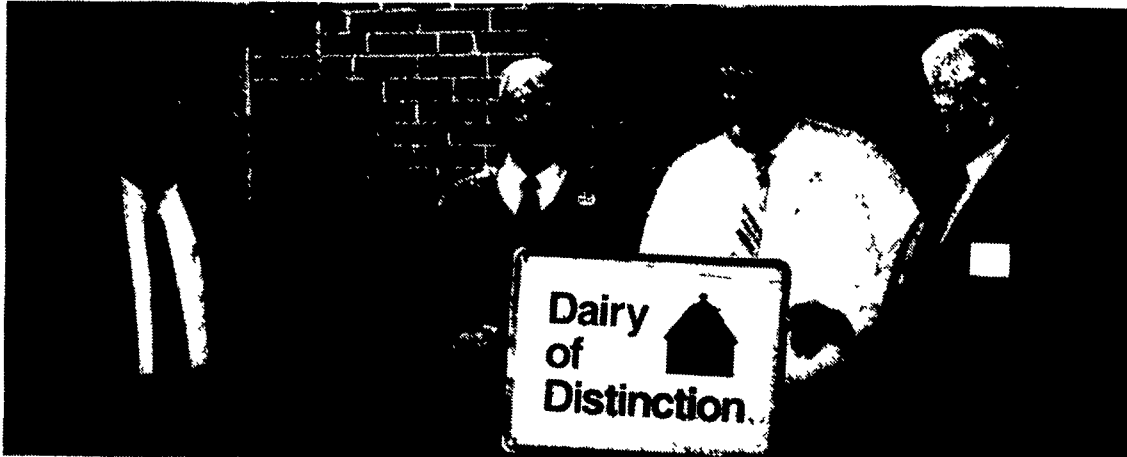
your farm to receive the coveted honor of Dairy of Distinction. This award is based on the concept that attractive farms enhance consumer confidence in the wholesomeness of milk, thereby stimulating milk sales and encouraging public support for the dairy industry."

Active dairy farms in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania are eligible to apply for the award. Criteria for Dairy of Distinction awards include: clean and attractively finished buildings; neat landscaping, ditches, roads and lands; and well maintained fences. Cleanliness of animals, barnyard, feed areas as well as manure management are also taken into consideration.

Applications are available from each state's program secretary or local cooperative extension. In New York, contact Evelyn Lightfoote, 3053 Depew Road, Stanley, N.Y. 14561. Phone: (716) 526-6654. In New Jersey, contact August Knispel, RD 1, Box 325, Pittstown, NJ 08867. Phone: 201) 735-4989. In Pennsylvania, contact Paul Nichols, American Dairy Association and Dairy Council, 1853 East Third St. Williamsport, PA 17701. Phone: (717) 323-2552.



Singing Brook Farms in Bedford County and owned by the Oble Snider family at Imbler is an example of the farms that were designated Dairy of Distinction last year. Over the last four years, 363 farms in Pennsylvania have received the recognition.



Officers of the Pennsylvania Dairy of Distinction program were reelected at the annual meeting in January. They are, left to right, Steve Spencer, advisor; Donna Gearhart, treasurer; Russ Rooks, vice president; Dan Baker, president; and Paul Nichols, secretary.



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