

Ephrata Young Farmer Barn Meet



EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.)—The adult farmers of the Ephrata Area School District held a dairy herd management barn meeting Monday at the farm of Carl Martin. The topics included a new udder hair removal technique, heat detection aids, a new calf dehorning method and discussion of a heat synchronization program. In addition, at the time of the meeting a cow was flushed to obtain embryos for transplanting in recipient helpers.

The program was under the direction of ABS resource persons.

For many years, the Martin herd has maintained a very high classification score and at present have 16 excellent, 42 very good and 34 good plus with a BAA score of 105.8. The cow that was flushed on Monday was the fifth generation excellent and an excellent sister stood next to her in the barn. The flush was successful and six good embryos were transplanted into recipient helpers.

In the above photo farmers watch the flushing process and in the lower photo Steve Monsanto tells how to make body score judgments on dairy cattle.



NFU Calls Madigan A Good Choice

DENVER, Colo.— Leaders of the 250,000 member National Farmers Union say they are "generally pleased" with President Bush's nomination of Illinois Congressman Edward Madigan to be U.S. agriculture secretary.

"Ed Madigan's record in Congress shows that he's accessible and receptive to the concerns of family farmers," said NFU's President Leland Swenson.

President Bush nominated Madigan to replace USDA Chief Clayton Yeutter, who will become head of the Republican National Committee in March. In making the nomination, Bush called Madigan a "compromiser" who "cares deeply about our farm policies."

Swenson said he hopes Madigan will place the needs of production agriculture at the top of his list of priorities. The farm leader wrote Bush earlier this month saying the new secretary should "serve as a spokesman for production agriculture," and "be their (family farmers') representative in Washington and their ambassador around the world."

NFU officials say they think Madigan will prove to be more moderate and pragmatic than Yeutter has been. "Secretary Yeutter simply has not represented family farm agriculture," said Swenson. "That was evident in the low-price policies he

pushed during the farm bill debate, and in his position during the GATT talks."

The NFU chief says the next several years will be difficult ones for farmers unless changes are made in the 1990 farm bill. NFU has been an outspoken critic of parts of the farm bill that it says "will devastate rural America."

"The President admitted that not all farmers are doing well," Swenson said. "That's the first time we've heard that from this administration, and I hope it's a sign that they're beginning to recognize how serious the problems of the rural sector have become."

Although Madigan's legislative proposals have sometimes run contrary to NFU's positions, Swenson said he would expect to have disagreements "with anyone Bush appointed" at USDA. "We have some very basic philosophical differences with this administration, but as long as the new secretary will hear us and consider our concerns, it's a step in the right direction," he said.

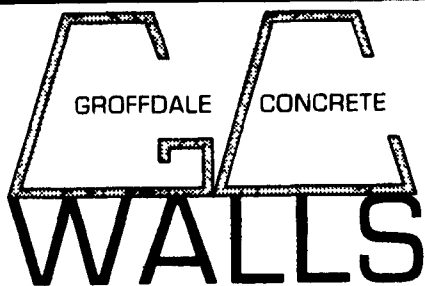
Madigan led the fight in Congress to maintain USDA's authority for cutting loan rates, countering one of NFU's major objectives in the farm bill. But Swenson says the economic situation for farmers has worsened since the farm bill was passed, and that "hopefully, Mr. Madigan will be open to making administrative changes in it."



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