

Dairy Of Distinction Seeks Well-Kept Dairy Farms For 1991 Beautification Recognition Program

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

COVINGTON (Tioga Co.)—The Northeast Dairy Farm Beautification Program, Inc., is ready to receive applications for 1991. This program rewards clean, well-kept farmsteads to help with consumer acceptance of dairy products in the store.

State President Dan Baker, dairyman from Covington, Tioga County, said the program has received great acceptance in the past and officers look forward to a good response again this year. "There are plenty of good looking dairy farms out there that have not been judged," Baker said. "And even those who have entered the selection process in past years, should enter again."

The program provides rewards of recognition to producers who maintain attractive production sites. This recognition benefits the entire dairy industry, as well as individual dairymen. Not only does the favorable publicity generated by the program in the general press help bring modern farm practices to the attention of urban people, farmers use the distinction to promote their own operation or seek and hire farm labor.

Paul Nichols, the secretary for the Pennsylvania program, said applications may be sent in now to apply for the award. Deadline 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

Lancaster Farming to each winning farm in the Pennsylvania program.

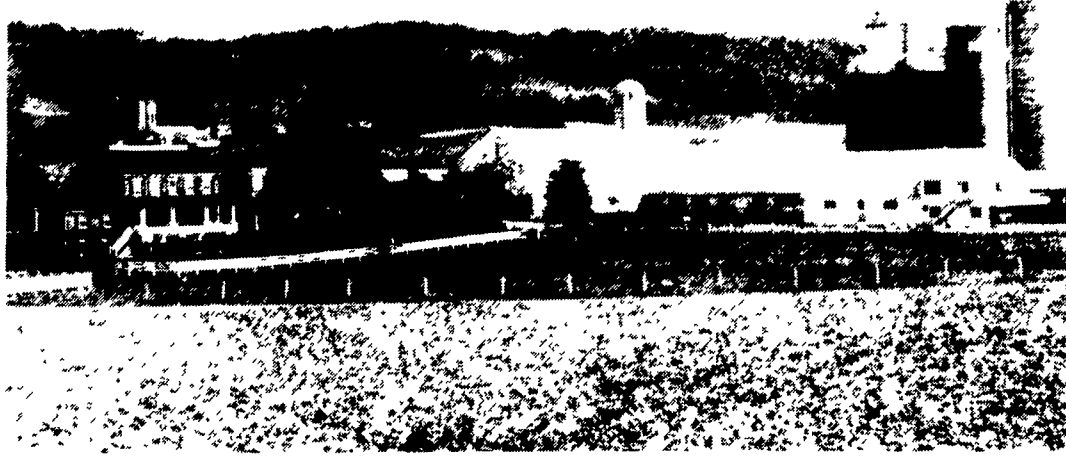
"As a dairy farmer, you work hard all year long, taking care of your farm," said Helen Fountain, program executive secretary. "In

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 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.

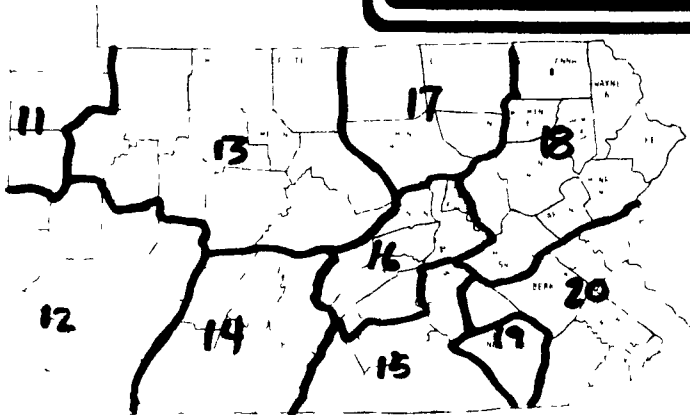
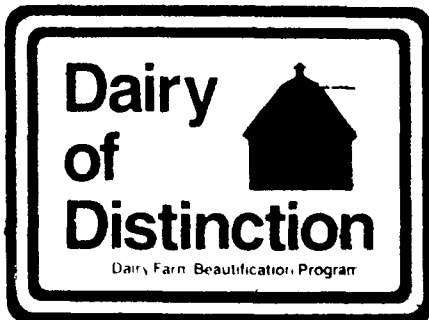
Applications are available from each state's program secretary or local cooperative extension. In New York, contact Evelyn Lightfoote, 3053 Depew Road, Stanley, N.Y. 14561. Phone: (716) 526-6654. In New Jersey, contact August Knispel, RD 1, Box 325, Pittstown, NJ 08867. Phone: 201-735-4989. In Pennsylvania, 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 Obie Snider family at Imler is an example of the farms that were designated Dairy of Distinction last year. Over the last four year, 363 farms in Pennsylvania have received the recognition.

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

Send
Application
By April 15



Pennsylvania Districts

Pennsylvania is divided into ten districts. Approximately 10 Dairy of Distinction awards will be made each year in each district. There is no cost to the applicant.

Pennsylvania area chairpersons are:

District 11: David Dowler; District 12: Wally Jackson; District 13: Susan DuJour; District 14: David Hileman; District 15: Sam McClay; District 16: Bernice Gable; District 17: Kevin Barrett; District 18: Allen Roszel; District 19: Lisa Risser; and District 20: Russell Rooks.

As a winner, you will receive a certificate and a nice metal sign to install at the end of your farm lane. In addition, LANCASTER FARMING will present a color farm portrait print to each of this year's winners in Pennsylvania. If your farm is a winner, be sure you or your district committee takes a color photograph of your farm and sends the negative and proof to LANCASTER FARMING in time for the awards ceremony.

Application For Dairy Of Distinction Farm Beautification Recognition

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Cooperative or Dealer-Handler: _____

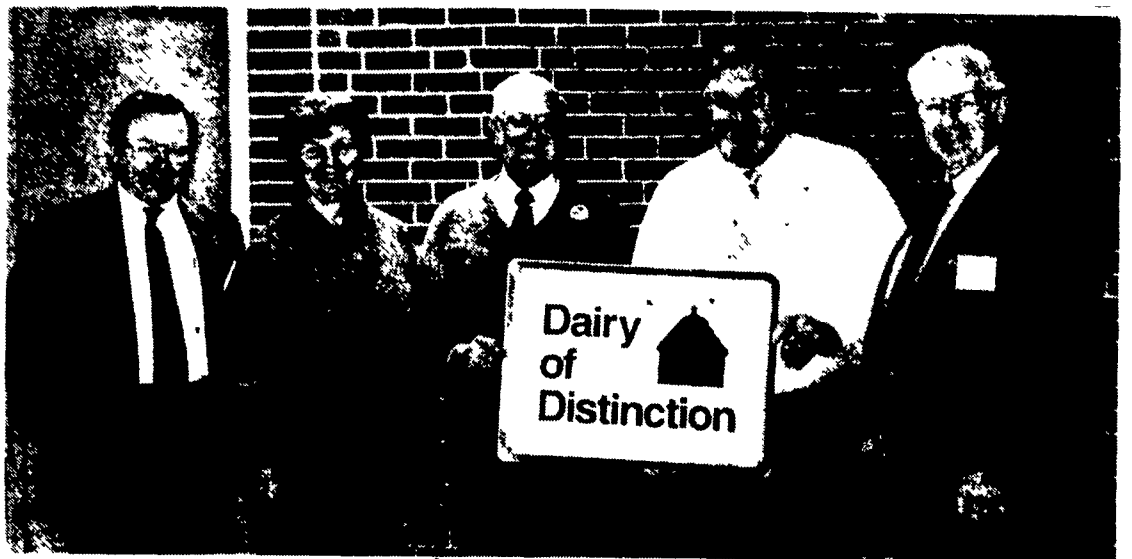
Location (driving directions for judging team): _____

County: _____

I hereby apply to the Northeast Dairy Farm Beautification committee to have my dairy scored in accordance with the rules of the program for the purpose of obtaining a DAIRY OF DISTINCTION sign to be displayed on my premises. (No producer will be charged with scoring or sign expense).

Signature of Owner or Operator

Return this coupon by April 15 to: Northeast Dairy Farm Beautification Program, c/o your area secretary. PENNSYLVANIA AREA: Paul Nichols, ADADC, 1853 East Third St., Williamsport, PA 17701. NEW JERSEY AREA: August Kinispel, RD 1, Box 325, Pittstown, NJ 08867. NEW YORK AREA: Evelyn Lightfoote, 3053 Depew Road, Stanley, NY 14561.



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.