

Pennsylvania Dairy Distinction Winners Announced

(Continued from Page A1)

Titusville; and Curtis Greenawalt, Linesville.

District 12: Rick and Ron Allen, Smock; William Faith, Mt. Pleasant; John Rising, Indiana; Robert Lauten, Fombell; and Edward Sapinsky, Smithton.

District 13: John & Todd Ishler, Spring Mills; Frank Nolan, Bellefonte; Lewis Corman & Son, Millheim; Anthony & Caroline Graine, Mill Hall; Joseph Griebel, Jr., Lucinda; and James Leofsky, Spring Creek.

District 14: Kenneth and Debra Bush, Williamsburg; Wendell and David Myers, Summerhill; Sheldon and Doris Gearhart, Hollidaysburg; Dale and Barbara Baker, New Enterprise; James Byler, Martinsburg; Roger and Pamela Stock, Martinsburg; Herbert, Edna and Norman Miller, Woodbury; Blair Bennett, Everett; Donald and Alan Gearhart, Martinsburg; and Royal and Faye Knepper, Markleton.

District 15: William Barkman, Chambersburg; Curtis and Ann

Day, Shippensburg; Bruce Zell, Hummelstown; Melvin Nissley, Middletown; Sinking Springs Farms, Inc., York; and Robert and Karen Cunningham, Gardners.

District 16: David Beachel, Danville; Kore Yoder, Belleville; Kenneth and Anna Mae Shuck, Mifflinburg; George Stewart, Port Royal; Roy Risser & Sons, Middleburg; and Norman Love, East Waterford.

District 17: Robert Thompson, Wyalusing; Frank Herman & Son, Canton; Ronald Kline, Troy; and Thomas Champluvier, Laceyville.

District 18: Bouwe AuKema, Meshoppen; Roy & Ruth Greenley, Tunkihannock; Mr. & Mrs. Roy & Mrs. Louise Noble, Springville; Pease Farms, Susquehanna; Willi & Lili Reuss, Harford; and Harry Kurtz, Pine Grove.

District 19: Donald and Larry Hershey, Manheim; Kenneth Balmer, Elizabethtown; Titus Stoner, Landisville; Maplehofe Dairy Farm Inc., Quarryville; Robert and Bonnie Wentworth & Family, Quarryville; John S. Zimmerman, East Earl; and John Rohrer, Lancaster.

District 20: Ralph & Crystal Moyer, Myerstown; Martin and Missy Moyer, Womelsdorf; Charles and Linda Zimmerman, Mohrsville; Paul and Geraldine Zimmerman, Bernville; James and Dolores Keller, Coopersburg; Nathan and Patricia Stolfus, Honeybrook; Ken and Marilyn Umble, Atglen; Thomas Roth, Landenberg; Melvin and Jean Zook, Elverson; and Robert and Barry Gehman, Coopersburg.

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Simple Steps Reduce Mastitis

UNIVERSITY PARK, Pa. — The high temperatures of spring and summer usually bring an increase in mastitis infections caused by environmental conditions, but there are ways to safeguard your herd, says a Penn State College of Agriculture dairy specialist.

"Mastitis can have a severe impact on your dairy operation," says Stephen Spencer, professor of dairy and animal science. "Cows that are recently freshened and under stress for milk production are more susceptible to mastitis because their body reserves are being drained and their resistance to bacteria is lowered. If your best cows get sick, your operation will be in serious trouble."

Keeping your cows outside can help. "The best place for cows under hot and humid conditions is out in the pasture, instead of in dry lots and free stall barns where many microorganisms are present," Spencer says.

Different microorganisms can cause inflammation of the udder. The type that causes mastitis in a particular cow depends on the number of microorganisms present, their ability to overcome body defenses, their growth phase and the resistance of the cow.

Spencer says another way to reduce mastitis risk is to change the bedding material. "Hot, humid conditions increase populations of mastitis-causing bacteria in organic bedding such as straw or sawdust. Inorganic bedding such as sand and limestone screenings can help reduce risk because they don't support bacteria growth." However, Spencer says these materials are usually unsuitable for farms with liquid manure systems.

Pre-dipping each cow's teats in a germicide before applying the milking machine also can help reduce mastitis risk.

"Post-dipping in germicide after milking has been practiced for many years, but pre-dipping is relatively new," Spencer says. "It's an idea with a lot of merit, particularly during periods of the year when environmental mastitis risk is highest."

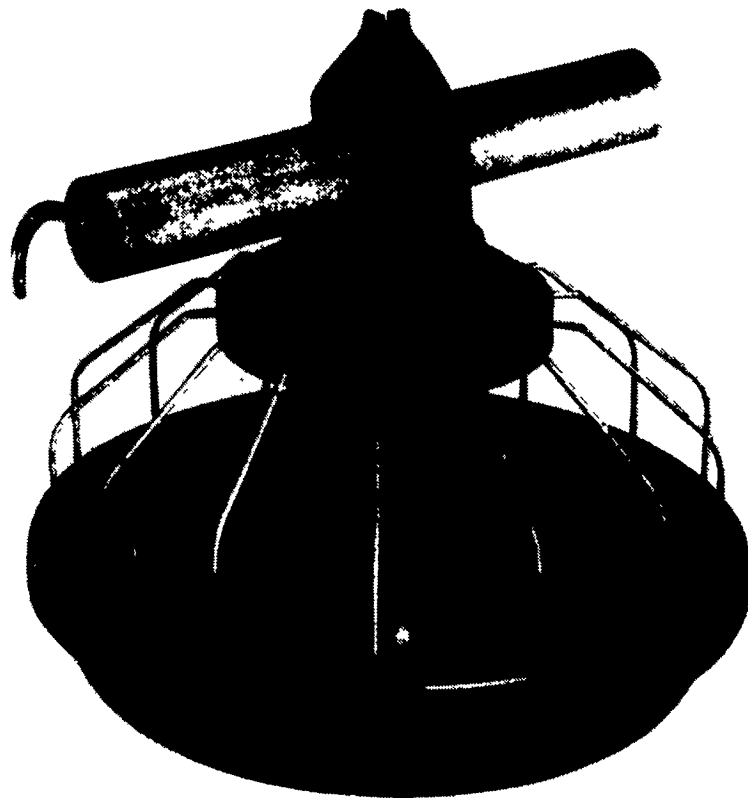
The first step in a pre-dip process is to wipe the cow's teats with a damp cloth. "But don't use a lot of water," Spencer cautions. "Too much water will dilute the pre-dip and increase chances of bacteria on the teat moving around in solution."

After wiping the teat, apply the germicidal pre-dip. "Make sure you use a product that has been labelled specifically as a pre-dip by the manufacturer," Spencer says. After you've applied the germicide, wait at least 30 seconds.

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