

Lebanon DHIA Tops State For Third Time

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FREDERICKSBURG (Lebanon Co.) — Lebanon County leads the state in rolling herd average milk and protein production for the third year in a row, it was announced Tuesday night during the county's annual Dairy Herd Improvement Association meeting and banquet at Kenbrook Retreat Center in Fredericksburg.

The county claims the fourth largest dairy herd in the state with 11,161 cows in the association for an average of 19,313 pounds of milk, 612 pounds of protein and 697 pounds of butterfat.

The state average for 1991 was 17,656 pounds of milk, 647 pounds of fat and 563 pounds of protein. Production records are calculated from data collected for a year, from September 30 to September 30.

Kenneth Winebark, county extension dairy agent, told the group of dairy producers that he was very proud of their accomplishments and that they should be too.

The county's somatic cell count average, based on 6,413 cows enrolled in that testing program, was 299,000, which is an increase from last year of 33,000. However, 87 percent of the herds had an SCC count below 400,000.

In March, the Lebanon DHIA

joined Pennsylvania DHIA under the reorganization plan which made for some change in reports during the annual meeting, the sixty-second for Lebanon.

And although Lebanon dairy-men excelled for a third straight year, Winebark cautioned that in order to stay competitive, they must continue to "Pay strict attention to things you have to do. Once again, you have a tremendous amount of resources and each and every one of the DHIA forms are the backbone of the information" that will enable breeders and producers to advance.

Dennis Kauffman, president, told the group that the financial statement for the group showed a surplus balance in excess of \$6,000 which is being held in a DHIA account at State College, with sole control of the money retained by the county members.

According to Kauffman, since the money will not be used for banquet and awards costs, members must still decide what to do with the excess funds. It was suggested that some formula for redistribution of money to members be considered.

In other business, Kauffman discussed some of the other changes to the association. There is a nine-member committee — no longer a board of directors —, each serving 3-year terms, stag-



Receiving recognition for their herd's and cow's leading production in Lebanon County, are, from the left front, Raymond Getz and Gary Lentz. In the back row, from the left, David Smith, Frank Reist, and Jim Hill.

gered so that three members are to be elected annually. Results of Tuesday's election were yet to be calculated and will be announced later.

The committee basically is serve the same type of function as directors of the past, except more aid and a direct communication with the state DHIA is to be emphasized.

Donald Duncan, Berks County, regional director for the state DHIA was present and talked briefly about the changes and some of the resistance by certain counties to join the state under reorganization.

"I just wish other counties would have the same feelings as Lebanon and Berks did," Duncan told the group. He said that services to members are expanding and that state directives are to "Do whatever you have to do not to raise fees through September 1992," he said.

Duncan also reported that a new billing system is set up to go into effect by Jan. 1 and that emphasis is being put on collecting calving ease records to help with breeding information.

"I feel this is going to help," Duncan said, adding that at least

one artificial insemination business is set to pay for the information collected.

He said that on the forms an area will be set aside for breeders to rate calving ease on a scale of 1 to 5. A tape with the records information on it will be reviewed every six months by the state DHIA and after the association is finished reviewing the information for their purposes, the information will be available to the artificial insemination businesses.

He is also to be a point of contact for member complaints and to serve as an area representative for member needs. "Any complaints, feel free to tell me what you want."

Louise Sible, member relations with the state DHIA and expert on the organization's ARIS service, told the group that there are 32

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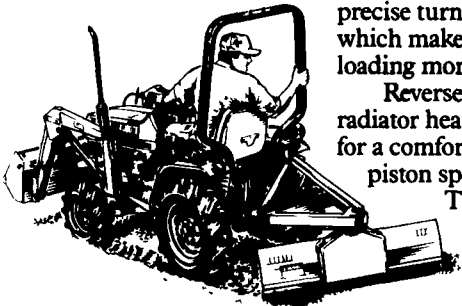
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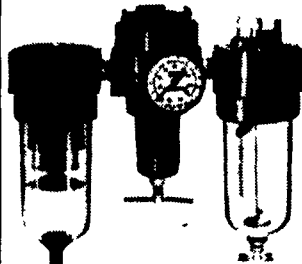
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