

Awards, State Speakers Highlight Juniata Meeting

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 Juniata Co. Correspondent
MIFFLINTOWN (Juniata County) — The Juniata County DHIA recently held its annual banquet at the Milford Grange Hall. Members and guests were greeted by Charles Wochley, who served as Juniata County's DHIA president.

After a banquet, Linda Scibilia, the testing laboratory manager for the state DHIA, presented a program on somatic cell counting. Her presentation examined the accuracy of testing and whether it was a true benefit, or a paper benefit. The program described somatic cells, their possible causes and effects. Scibilia's talk emphasized the importance of DHIA and its role in detecting problem cows with high somatic cell counts (SCC), and the relationship of high SCC to the potential loss of future milk production.

The lab manager also had slides showing the lab equipment, and she described the current technology and procedures involved with accurate somatic cell counts.

The Pennsylvania lab ranks above the National DHIA Quality Standards for machine accuracy and calibration within the national tolerance standards, she said.

The Pennsylvania lab also has some of the best and most-recent equipment available of any DHIA lab in the United States, according to Scibilia.

The Regional DHIA Area Manager Harry Fritz also presented more slides and information about the DHIA program locally and statewide.

Melissa Adamire, Craig Van

Horn, Terry Willow, and Christopher Yohn were recognized as the present DHIA supervisors in Juniata County.

Mike Beaver was also recognized for his 15 years of service as a DHIA Supervisor from which he has recently stepped down to pursue his own full-time dairy operation.

This year a herd management award was given for the first time to the owner of the most improved

herd. The award is based on a point system comprised of criteria such as improvements in milk, fat, and protein production, and lowering of the SCC.

Russell Adamire of Mifflintown received the Herd Management Award with a score of 87 points which reflects his herd's 3,726-pound increase in milk production over the past year.

Myron and Mary Gehman and E. Marlene Peoples were second

and third respectively.

Glen and Tracey Henry of Port Royal were the top herd in Juniata County for protein. Their rolling herd average was 22,789 pounds milk, 705 pounds protein, and 853 pounds fat.

Other herds in the top ten included, in descending order, Ken Deamer, Steve and Barb Wilson, Rick and Jeanette Saner, Mark Zook, Speerette Farms, Melvin Martin, Donald Adams, Daryl and

Delbert Brubaker, and Harold Shearer.

Other herds in the county were noted for having somatic cell counts below an average of 200,000. Those herds included R.E. Shearer & Family, Timothy Lauver, James and Anne Faulkner, Gerald Hart, Steve and Barb Wilson, and Fred Shoop.

Under business, Glen Henry and Delbert Brubaker were elected as DHIA directors, Melvin Martin of Thompsettown was elected president, Russell Dressler was named vice president, and Steve Wilson was elected secretary.

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