

## Perry DHIA Holds Meeting

ICKESBURG (Perry Co.) — The Perry County Dairy Herd Improvement Association held its annual meeting late November in celebration of the completion of 66 years of DHIA testing in Perry County.

After a ham dinner, prepared and served by members of the Ickesburg Fire Company, county president and state DHIA director Brooks Smith addressed the group.

He talked about the financial status of the state organization and reviewed several recent state board decisions.

James Garrity, from Pa.DHIA, spoke on the process of

reorganization — the voluntary centralization and standardization of administrative DHIA services which many counties have joined and which is still being considered in other counties.

Perry County has yet to vote on reorganization and Garrity fielded questions from the audience on the impact of reorganization to testing fees, service and other program components.

In other business, county agent Dave Swartz and president Brooks Smith presented awards for high cows in milk and protein within age groups.

Those cows and owners were: 2 year old milk and protein: Cow

#51- 24,693 lbs. milk and 786 lbs. protein; owned by Perry Kretzing and Sons, Loysville. 3 year old milk and protein: Molly- 28,684 lbs. milk and 883 lbs. protein; owned by Carl Martin, Ickesburg. 4 year old milk and protein: Lilly- 29,592 lbs. milk and 947 lbs. protein; owned by Ken and Jane Benner, Millerstown. 5 year old milk and protein: Marcie- 30,192 lbs. milk and 933 lbs. protein; owned by M. W. Smith Farms, Newport. Aged cow milk and protein: Cow #490- 30,670 lbs. milk and 943 lbs. protein; owned by Nevin Rice, Blain.

The following herds received

awards for top herd management within their production class. Over 19,000 lbs. rolling herd average: Carl & Brent McMillen, Loysville; Nevin Rice, Blain; Melvin Weaver, Ickesburg. In the 17,000-19,000 lb production class, winners were: J. Marvin Landis, Liverpool, Issac Wenger, Landisburg and Trout Brothers, Blain. In the 17,000 lb production class, winners were: Ron Fauth, Loysville; Jason Burkholder, Ickesburg;

Steve High, Loysville.

Perry County DHIA had 68 DHIA herds and 6 owner sampler herds tested by supervisors Mike O'Toole, David Shenk 111 and Walter Stydinger. The herds averaged 17,988 lbs. milk, 651 lbs. fat, and 570 lbs. protein. Over 4,800 cows were tested monthly.

Jason Burkholder, Ickesburg and Vance Kretzing, Loysville, were elected to the county DHIA board of directors.



Receiving awards at the Perry County DHIA banquet are, from left in the back row, Ken Benner, Perry Kretzing, and Brent McMillen. From the left front are Jason Burkholder, J. Marvin Landis, and Nevin Rice.

## Researchers Offer New Bull Rating Index

CLAYTON, Mo. — Canadian dairy researchers and the breeding industry have developed a unique bull-rating scale known as the Lifetime Profitability Index, or LPI.

Introduced in the January genetic evaluation run in 1991, LPI was created to give dairymen and breeders an easy way to choose the best sires.

According to Dr. Jack Dekkers, a dairy specialist at the University of Guelph, Ontario, "LPI is a measuring criterion that puts focus on the most profitable available bulls. It's an effective initial guideline for selection. Then the producer can make a specific choice from within that group of high-LPI sires."

LPI attempts to rank sires on the average lifetime profit potential of

their daughters, based on the two factors that have been shown to have the largest impact on profitability: production and herd life.

LPI is weighted more heavily on production, Dekkers said, because it's the major factor contributing to dairy profits.

But to maximize the lifetime profitability of a cow, she needs to stay in the herd for several years. Even the most productive cows aren't worth much if they last only a couple of lactations. That's why LPI considers potential herd life in determining a cow's eventual worth.

However, since there are no direct measures of herd life, the sire's proofs for certain type traits are incorporated.

"Here some assumptions are made in the LPI formula," Dekkers said, "but past research has found a positive relationship between these particular type traits and a cow's longevity."

Current and future research will attempt to determine the importance of type traits more clearly, as well as that of other traits, such as calving ease and milking speed.

LPI considers a cow's final class, feet and legs, mammary system, and capacity — all elements

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