Dairy Expo Focuses

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farmer-panel were not all able to make the seminar due to health reasons.

Speaking in the morning, following a talk by Dr. Robert Yonkers, an agricultural economist at Penn State University, on the economic outlook for the regional dairy industry, were Sue and Roy Crow, from Kennedyville, Md.; Rob Fulper, of Fulp's Acres in Ringoes, N.J., and Bucky Jones, in Burlington County, N.J.

The panelists discussed the various aspects of their farms, the designs, the decisions and how they rate the usefullness of some equipment and technology.

The types of operations range from the Crows' family farm with 62 registered Holsteins to Jones' multi-agricultural business which involves 400 milking cows and Mexican-citizen milkers he hires through an employment firm in Dallas, Texas.

Though high milk production is characteristic of each farm, the common thread was that each assessed their land, buildings, and amount of capital available for reinvestment and followed a course of a focused goal of minimizing effort, physically and financially, for the most return.

As an example of some of the decisions made, Fulper said he hires an independent outfit to do some of his crop work, but only after he calculated that he would save money by having someone else do the work.

A key element in each speaker's presentation was to get and use as much information as possible, whether it relates to crops, cash or COWS.

According to Fulper, the only drawback about having enough information is that it shows just how much, or little, a dairy operation is making. Fulper said that it's a drawback when all the information shows that the farm is being as efficiently as possible and that the profit margin won't improve.

Then you have two choices. To live with it, or get out of the business," he said, pausing to imply that he's thought about getting out.



Holding the microphone, John Dumschadt monitors a panel discussion by various dairymen about their operations. On the panel, from the left is Robert Fulper II, Roy Crow and Bucky Jones.

Attitude is also important, according to all speakers. Jones said he thought it was most important to have the attitude that profitable dairying is a challange worth pursuing, that has rewards above money.

He said he was lucky because he has sons who get excited about trying to increase the herd average and their excitement gets him excited too.

In his presentation, Dr. Michael Sukhdeo, parasitologist with Rutgers University, talked about roundworms and their lifecycles and effects on a dairy herd.

Sikhdeo said that the relationship between parasitic roundworms and cattle had been established long before man domesticated the cattle.

Previously, the cattle were free roaming and assumedly migratory. In this scenario, the large numbers of roundworm eggs and infectious larvea were dispersed widely and had little chance to infect other cattle.

Also, Sikhdeo said research has shown that cattle with small infections of roundworms actually are thriftier and healthier than those not serving as host.

The problem occurs when cattle are restricted in pastures and the populations of roundworms skyrocket, causing very high levels of parasitic infections in cattle.

The program he suggested for parasitic control has been reported several times in the past --- prepasture spring treatment of a dewormer, followed by pasturing and another dose of dewormer.

Other than allowing the cattle to roam freely over a vast unfenced area such as was the pre-domestic behavior of the cattle, Sikhdeo said the only other way to control the devastation of unaturally large roundworm infections is to use chemical dewormers.

The type of chemical used doesn't matter, he said, despite what representatives of the companies may say.

However, Sikhdeo said that it was important to switch types of chemical control at least every several years. He said that chemical resistance will occur.

PSU Addresses Sustainable Ag

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) --- Penn State's exhibit at the 76th Pennsylvania State Farm Show is intended to reflect the breadth of College of Agricultural Sciences research and education programs, from sustainable and international agriculture to wood products and youth development.

"We hope to give people a more complete understanding of the College's programs in sustainable agriculture and what the concept means," said James Frazier, professor of entomology and coordinator of the sustainable agriculture display.

Visitors can complete a survey designed to gauge public opinion about sustainable agriculture, and faculty or staff will be on hand to answer questions and distribute printed materials.

The international display will highlight the College's involvement in a USDA Extension Service project to strengthen Poland's agricultural sector.

Faculty and staff are helping Polish extension advisers to educate producers and agribusinesses about a free-market economy and to strengthen linkages among research, extension and industry. Similar efforts have been started in Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

The importance of forests to the state's economy will be explored in a display coordinated by John Janowiak, assistant professor of forest resources.

"Most people regard the forest as a beautiful natural resource," he said. "Many don't realize our forests benefit Pennsylvania's economy as well."

Among the projects highlighted will be the nation's first red oak, glued-laminated timber bridge. Penn State researchers developed the technology and design specifications for this innovative structure, which offers a competitive alternative to concrete and steel spans.

Five of the College's youth programs will be part of a display that includes videos, live performances and demonstrations.

Featured will be Theater and Dance, Therapeutic Horseback Riding, Learn and Earn, Latchkey Kids, and Eating for a Better Start, a program for pregnant teens.

Adult leaders and youth participants will be on hand to answer questions.

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SCRANTON (Lackawanna Co.) - The Northeastern Pennsylvania Turfgrass and Grounds Maintenance School, which was formerly held at Luzerne County Community College, will be held at the Mountain Laurel Resort in White Haven, Pa. on January 28. The meeting will have four education sessions with a total of 18 presentations on various aspects of landscape maintenence and pest control. For more information, contact the Lackawanna Penn State Cooperative Extension Office at (717) 963-6842 or the Pennsylvania Turfgrass Council, P.O. Box 1078, Lemont, PA 16851-1078, (814) 863-3970.



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