

Star Award For FFA'er

(Continued from Page A1)

cated work," she explains.

Deanna's parents, Clair and Esther Kuhns, supported her decision to start her own dairy herd. Believing that it would be good for her to establish credit at an early age, they encouraged her to apply for a loan at the Mifflinburg Bank and Trust Company. With her parents as co-signers, Deanna got her loan in April 1989 — and purchased 15 Holstein cows to get started.

Deanna and her family had built a milkhouse for her use during the summer of 1988. She still uses part of her parents' barn and their milking equipment, but looks forward to a time when she may be able to purchase her own dairy farm.

She knows that won't be easy, though, because she's already had her share of farming's hardships. During her first year, she lost five animals and saw her veterinary bills soar. The drought this past summer forced her back to the bank for another loan to make ends meet.

"I think one of the reasons Deanna is successful is that she doesn't let the odds get her down."

She's willing to accept challenges and meet problems head-on," says FFA advisor Glenn Spangler.

Deanna also is willing to put in the hard work and long hours farming requires. Her day starts at 4 a.m. when she milks her cows and feeds about 45 of her parents' herd. After school, she helps with milking from 3:30 to about 7 p.m., then eats a quick supper and does homework assignments until bedtime.

While the long hours are her "least favorite" aspect of farming, Deanna manages her time well enough to serve as president of the Mifflinburg FFA chapter, alternate SUN Area Dairy Princess, treasurer of the SUN Area FFA, and a member of Mifflinburg's National Honor Society. She has earned Star Greenhand, Star Chapter Farmer and Star SUN Area Farmer awards, placed seventh in FFA state creed competition as a freshman, attended the FFA national leadership training conference, and participated in several public speaking contests.

Her performance in FFA state farm management competition earned her a spot on the Pennsylvania team that placed second in

Tri-State Dairy Day Events Planned

ERIE (Erie Co.) — A Tri-State Dairy Day is being cooperatively

12-state competition at the Eastern States Exposition last September. Individually, she placed eighth among 40 entrants.

Deanna credits her experiences in FFA with helping her develop self-confidence and the ability to work with others.

"In farming, you have to deal with 'the outside world.' The public speaking contests have helped me with that. And the national leadership conference in Washington is wonderful," she says.

Deanna plans to look for a job after she graduates — to add to her farming income and increase her chances of being able to purchase her own farm someday.

And she has some thoughts for other young people who have dreams about a career in farming: "It's not impossible to start early. And once you start, never give up. There will be rough times, but deal with them the best you can and don't get discouraged. The benefits far outweigh the problems. It's all worth it in the end."

sponsored by Cooperative Extension in Pennsylvania, New York, and Ohio. This event is planned for Thursday, Jan. 30, at the Shrine Club in Erie.

More than 50 agricultural businesses are helping to sponsor this activity and each sponsor will have an exhibit which dairymen may visit throughout the day. The exhibits will be open for viewing at 9:30 a.m.

At 10:30 a.m. a formal educational program will start with an impressive group of speakers coming from as far away as Gainesville, Fla.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. John Holt, a nationally known economist from the University of Florida. Dr. Holt has recently completed research which looks at the cost of producing milk in several regions throughout the United States. He is to be discussing his research findings and disclosing his thoughts on how dairymen in the Northeast can stay competitive with dairymen in other areas of the United States.

The second guest speaker who is scheduled to be on the program at

11:00 a.m. is Dr. Ken McGuffey, a dairy nutritionist presently working for Eli Lilly. Dr. McGuffey will discuss the topic of "Feeding the Dairy Herd for Maximum Profit." He will discuss different feeding strategies for producing milk that "best fits" the market place.

Dr. McGuffey has spoken at international conferences and is respected around the world for his expertise in dairy cattle nutrition.

The third speaker scheduled to talk at 2 p.m. is Dr. Robert Jacobson of the Ohio State University.

Dr. Jacobson will present information on the future of milk marketing in the Northeast. His topic will address concerns such as "Component Pricing of Milk" and other political issues affecting the dairymen throughout the Northeast United States.

A buffet lunch will be served at the cost of \$6 per person.. Reservations will be needed.

To make reservations contact one of the following: George Wilcox, Erie County Agent - 814/925-0900; Lisa Kempisty, Chautauqua County Agent - 716/664-9502; Alan Travis, Crawford County Agent - 814/336-1151; Bruce Brockett, Ohio Regional Agent - 216/533-5538; Jim Cowden, Warren County Agent - 814/723-6003; David Dowler, Mercer County Agent - 412/662-3141.

Reservation deadline has been extended to Monday Jan. 27.

Those living in Mercer and Crawford Counties, can reserve free shuttle bus service to Dairy Day by calling their respective extension office. The shuttle bus service is being provided by PennWest Farm Credit.

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