

# Forum Addresses Water Quality

LITITZ (Lancaster Co.) — Water quality in Lancaster County was the topic of discussion at a recent meeting of the Agricultural Issues Forum, a group of people who meet monthly for the purpose of strengthening agriculture through better communications and alliances.

Guest speaker was Karen Hottell, president of the Conestoga Valley Association. Her talk focused on contamination of groundwater supplies by industrial discharge, landfill leachate, and underground storage tank failure.

Using a map of Lancaster County's stream and agricultural land overlaid with the locations of federal Superfund CIRCLA sites and approved landfill and industrial discharge locations, she showed the extent to which Lancaster's water sources are endangered.

Further, she said, "Many assumptions regarding the level of protection of water resources by

regulatory agencies are not borne out by the reality of regulatory implementation."

In other words, she said that while laws and regulations exist for the protection of water resources, enforcement of those laws and regulations is minimal or nonexistent.

To help change the situation, she advocated stricter monitoring of the discharge approval process and, more important in the long term, adoption of waste reduction technology by industry.

Asserting that technology exists whereby industry can both increase their profitability and benefit the environment, Hottell said, "This can be a truly 'win-win' situation."

Although production agriculture has been cited as a major contributor to water pollution by excess nutrients being washed into waterways, Hottell said that there are potentially more harmful sources

of groundwater contamination that deserve close scrutiny by regulatory agencies and the public.

One reason is because a body of water polluted with nutrients will naturally cleanse itself, given time and a reduction in the amount of nutrients allowed to flow into the water.

On the other hand, many toxic or potentially toxic chemicals used in manufacturing, or as a component in manufactured products, can contaminate a water supply and pose a threat of permanently destroying that water source.

The next two scheduled meetings of the Agricultural Issues Forum are Feb. 20, for an update on nutrient management legislation; and March 11, for a special meeting with the state Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee.

For more information, contact Michael Brubaker, managing director of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Issues Forum.

# AJCC Registration Soars

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio — The American Jersey Cattle Club recorded the largest number of Jersey registrations in almost 40 years and says it is due to a registration incentive program it announced in October.

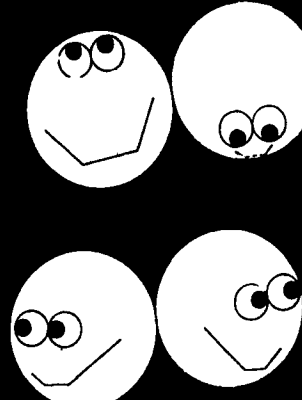
The program allowed breeders to register animals at 20 to 60 percent savings over regular fees, bringing in a total of 76,816 registrations were received in the AJCC office during 1991.

This is the highest number since 1953, and an increase of 41.7 percent over last year. This overwhelming response shows the confidence Jersey owners have in the future of the breed. A total of 57,627 registrations were recorded during the year.

The AJCC staff has been working hard to keep up with the quantity of registrations that have poured into the office in the last three

months. As many as 17,871 applications were received in a single day.

The AJCC asks participants to be patient as the registration department sorts through and completes applications. Work will be processed in the following order: transfers first, followed by registrations received with proper fees. Those who took part in the deferred payment plan and did not send money will be processed third, after proper fees are received.



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