

# Dairymen Receive Management Tips At Farmer Day

**INTERCOURSE** (Lancaster Co.)—Management tips and the prevention of disease highlighted the presentations by Dr. Don Jaquette, Master Mix dairy nutritionist, from Decatur Ind. The nutritionists spoke here at Sensenig's Feed Mill Farmer Day held last Friday.

Jaquette said forage quality was very important. "We can't emphasize forage quality enough," he said. "There is no way as a feed company we can make up totally for poor quality forage."

When purchasing forage, Jaquette said you need to know more than the crude protein level

of the alfalfa. Many factors, such as maturity, temperature and light affect forage quality. In addition to protein, hay should be considered as an energy source. Forage analysis should be done on each load of hay to see what is needed to balance the ration and also to determine the quality of the purchased hay.

"Sometimes dairymen get lax in their management practices when production reaches high levels," Jaquette said. "But when production is good, that is when you cannot forget preventive things like mastitis control, hoof trimming,

vaccinations and parasite control."

Since the milk pricing structure is headed toward solids and protein, farmers need to be more aware of milk components. Jaquette said breeding and feeding affect milk components. But genetics affects protein more than feeding. While feeding can increase fat from 3.2% to 4.0%, protein will vary only several tenths.

"Farmers need to start to look at both fat and protein in their breeding programs," Jaquette said.

The program, that included lunch, was attended by more than 100 farmers.



At Sensenig's Farmer Day are, left to right, Mike Sensenig, sales manager; Dr. Don Jaquette, Master Mix dairy nutritionist and Ken Sensenig, president.

## Will Discuss Techniques

**PORT CLINTON** (Schuylkill Co.)—Members of the Pennsylvania chapter of the Organic Crop Improvement Association (OCIA) will hear a discussion of improved vegetable production and marketing techniques at their February meeting, chapter president Jodi Snyder announced.

The meeting, open to all farmers and the general public, will be held at 7 p.m. on Feb. 26 in

Room A-1 of the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg.

Snyder said the meeting will feature presentations by Drew Norman and Cass Peterson, both operators of OCIA-certified vegetable farms, as well as a general membership discussion of approaches to organic growing.

Norman, owner of the One Straw Farm at Baldwin, Md., will discuss steps for improving soil

fertility. Peterson, co-owner of Flickerville Mt. Farm & Groundhog Ranch in Fulton County, will talk about innovative marketing procedures and the production of high-value specialty crops.

Inquiries about membership in the Pennsylvania chapter of OCIA may be directed to chapter president Snyder at Great Bend Organic Farm, Box 158, Port Clinton, PA 19549, (215) 562-5502.

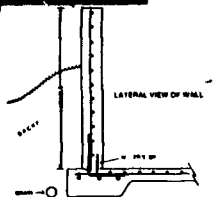
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