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Frank Orner Named Pennsylvania DHIA President

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EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

HOME CAMP (Clearfield Co.)—When you deal successfully with other people around you, you may call it good public relations. But to the new president of the Pennsylvania Dairy Herd Improvement Association, public relations is simply old-fashioned neighborliness.

Frank Orner, who farms 400 acres on five farms just east of DuBois, with his parents, uncle, and cousins, was named head of Pennsylvania's largest dairy association last week at a board meeting in Sayre. William Jackson, New Salem, was named vice president; Joseph Lyons, Millville, secretary; and Norman Hershey, Gordonville, treasurer.

"We try to help our neighbors when we can," Orner said. "We plow the snow from their lanes and each year invite them for a hay ride and other activities on the farm. In return, if we have a problem or need some help, they are not reluctant to step in and offer help."

"The secret to good relations is not to be argumentative, but

cooperative," Orner said. "It's not enough to only do what you must do to get the job done. You need to be friends with as many people as possible. In farm organizations as well as personally, the care of our neighbors is a very important aspect of agriculture right now."

"In DHIA we need to improve our relations with members as well as other segments of the industry. We need to work at our relationship with the bull studs. We have been working on our relationship with Penn State, but we need to do more."

"We need to work with government agencies because the lab generates waste. With fewer people in agriculture, the government tends to move away from us. That's why we need to try to work together."

"It's essential to the survival of the dairy industry in Pennsylvania that we work together. United we stand, divided we fall. It's as simple as that."

"Down the road, I would like to see more cooperation among farmers to get things done without the need for the farmer to use his fin-

(Turn to Page A28)



The Orner family from left, Frank, Ross and Sarah, David, Leroy, and Russell.

Farmers Must Test Water For Herd, Family Health

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
BERNVILLE (Berks Co.) —

After returning from a Sunday drive one afternoon in August, dairy farmer Calvin Zerbe saw one of his prize cows, a 3-year-old, lying dead in the field.

A few months earlier, calves on milk replacer began to die. Cows wouldn't drink enough water, and their digestive systems would shut down. After the death of additional calves, Zerbe called a veterinarian. The vet's suggestion? Move the calves from the barn into hutches and administer antibiotics for every possible sickness. Zerbe did — but that didn't work. More calves began to die.

With all possible explanations

for the deaths of his cattle ruled out, Zerbe considered another. Perhaps the well water needed testing?

After the results came back that the well water was so contaminated that it wasn't even fit for washing clothes, Zerbe did what he had to do.

New well system

Within a few months, Zerbe built a new well and new well water filtering system with help from a neighbor.

Zerbe, recognized this week by the Berks County Conservation District as farmer of the year, said that even drilling a new well wasn't enough. The previous well, contaminated by what he believes

may have been surface water, was closed and a new one was built.

"We drilled a new well, and that didn't solve it all," he said. "We wound up putting a filtering system in and blacklight. And since that's been in, the herd health and the calves have been doing wonderful."

Zerbe admitted that the water

problem had him perplexed for the longest time. Most farmers, according to the dairyman, don't bother to check their well water. Some know a problem exists but don't have the money or the resources to handle it. Instead, they rely on the advice of veterinarians and other experts to exact a quick cure — which often proves futile.

Highly contaminated

The water was highly contaminated, according to Zerbe. "We had just about everything," he said. "High nitrates, coliform bacteria . . . They said not do do anything with it, not wash clothes or anything."

(Turn to Page A30)

Morrow Distinguished Dairy Alumnus

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Dr. David A. Morrow has been named the Department of Dairy and Animal Science's 1992 Distinguished Dairy Alumnus. He will be honored at a banquet following the 67th Dairy Expo on April 25.

Morrow grew up on a farm in Blair County and graduated from Penn State with high honors in 1956. Like many past recipients, he was a very active student. His early accomplishments include receiving the Mr. Agriculture Award (now known as the Out-

standing Senior Award) and participating on both the dairy judging and livestock judging teams. During his college career, he chaired the Dairy Judging Contest and edited a student-produced magazine, Penn State Farmer. He also served as president of the Dairy Science Club and campus 4-H Club. He is a member of Phi Eta Sigma, Phi Kappa Phi, Sigma Xi, Alpha Zeta, Gamma Sigma Delta, and Epsilon Sigma Phi. He was also the Dairy Expo's Grand Champion Fitter in 1954 and Grand Champion Showman in 1955.

After receiving his D.V.M. in 1960 and a Ph.D. in theriogenology

(Turn to Page A37)

Guernsey Association Holds Convention At Bedford

LINDA WILLIAMS

Bedford Co. Correspondent
BEDFORD (Bedford Co.) — "Overall, we were pleased with the sale," said Jim Trotter, business manager of the Pennsylvania Guernsey Breeder's Association, following the Blue Halter Sale held April 4 at the Bedford Fairgrounds.

A bid of \$2,500 was cast for a senior calf owned by Brad and Bernetta Gable of Snider Homestead Farms in New Enterprise. The highest bid came by telephone from a Kentucky farmer, Philip Perkins.

Calf sale receipts totaled \$21,900 making a \$1,216.67 average for an 18-head herd.

John E. duPont of Newtown Square purchased the highest bid consignment cow for a bid of \$3,500. Walnut Lane Prides Hazel

was owned by Rodney and Darlene Stuff of Mercersburg.

Second highest consignment bid of \$3,000 was by Great Hill Dairy Inc. for Oakland Fortunes Farah owned by Moser Brothers of Chicora.

Third highest, Lebanon Valley Ned Nel owned by Jacob N. Smith and Son of Ja-Mar Dairy in Annville, went for \$2,500. She was also bought by John E. duPont.

Troy Hill of Sandy Lake purchased the second highest bid calf for \$2,100 and Tucker Wirthington of New York paid \$2,050 for the third highest bid calf.

At the Friday evening awards banquet held at Hoss's Best Western in Bedford, Kathy Keenis was named the 1992 Pennsylvania

(Turn to Page A36)



Troy Hill and Erica Yapple are named Outstanding Guernsey Girl and Boy at the state Guernsey Association's annual convention.

INDEX

Sec. A...Market Reports & General News.

Sec. B...Women's News

Sec. C...Business News & Classified 4-36.

Sec. D...Classified 1-3.

Sec. E...Public Sales & Mailbox Market

See Story Index Page A3.