

Jerseys Are Tops

(Continued from Page A1) noted that one of her cows produced more milk than her neighbor's Holsteins.

"I tease him about it," she said. During her presentation she recited figures that show Jersey milk is higher in protein and fat than Holsteins.

Because they are smaller, they eat less and are thus more cost effective for farmers, she said.

Carol Dreisbach, information director for the American Jersey Cattle Club, was the featured speaker during the Sunday breakfast.

A native of Berks County, Dreisbach spoke on animal welfare from a business perspective.

"Farmers have to be careful about how we treat our animals," she said, noting that consumers are concerned about the safety of the food supply.

"We need to tell people how careful we are in our treatment of downer cows," she said about this emotionally charged topic.

"Cows are our business, and we need to look at what we do and be beyond reproach," she said.

The top five winners out of 21 winners of the Jacob M. Brunges production contest were:

1. Lisa Rankin, Burgettstown, Lollie Royal Lollipop of Rankin Actual 305 3-00 3x 18,842 lbs. M, 943 lbs. F, 770 lbs. P; ME 19,894 lbs M, 775 lbs. P.

2. Jason Rankin, Burgettstown,

Rankin Legend Bambi Fawn, actual 304 3-03 3x 21,354 lbs. M, 948 lbs. F, 759 lbs. P; ME 21,862 lbs M, 743 lbs. P.

3. Pamela McConnell, Volant, Jem Trix-Star Taffy Trixy, actual 304 3-03 18,311 lbs. M, 871 lbs. F, 692 lbs. P; ME 18,860 lbs. M, 726 lbs. P.

4. Robert McConnell, Volant, Jem Duncan Bingo Becky, actual 305 2-10 16,009 lbs. M, 807 lbs F, 637 lbs. P; ME 19,111 lbs M, 695 lbs. P.

5. Joy McConnell, Volant, Jem Duncan Poppy Penny, actual 305 4-09, 16,315 lbs. M, 800 lbs. F, 634 lbs. P; ME 17,947 lbs. M, 695 lbs. P.

Melanie Dietrich was the top finalist in the senior division of the junior achievement awards. She will compete in the national competition in the fall, said Betsy Dupuis, youth advisor of the organization.

Dietrich also was awarded a \$200 scholarship.

Other winners in the senior division were Michelle Dugan, Watertown; Michael Lydic, Marion Center; Pamela McConnell, Volant, and Joy Vance, Mt. Pleasant.

Winners in the junior division were Emily Dietrich, Newburg, Roberta McConnell, Volant, and Michelle Proctor, Waterford.

Sunday's event featured a sale of 15 calves at the Phillips farm in Centerport.

Star Point Andy Allusion, a



The new state Jersey Queen, seated, is Marsha Ann Chess. She is flanked by other contestants, from left, Pamela McConnell, Shannon Peterman (one of the alternates), Noel C. Schelb (another alternate), and Michelle Dugan.

June heifer owned by John and Cindy Batchelder, sold for the highest amount at \$975. She is a daughter of Fairweather Andy out of a Valley Stream Silver Beacon daughter. Her line dates back to Top Brass daughter, which sold for more than \$10,000 in a Heron Run dispersal.

Star Point was bought by Timelss Syndicate, Keymar, Md.

Two calves sold for \$800. The first one was Irish Creek Top Seasons, a December calf owned by David and Robin Phillips, Mohrsville R.D. 1, who hosted the auction. She is a daughter of Molly Brook Brass Top and her maternal line goes back to Irish Creek EHV Noble Maria.



Members of the Haag Family perform a lip sync of "Pass It On Down" by Alabama. Their presentation won first place at the Holstein Convention In February. Doing the lip sync is Angela Werley. Providing backup as Jersey cows are, from left Erica Davis, Jessica Haag, and Melissa Werley.



Melanie Dietrich, second from left, last year's queen, congratulates the new queen, Marsha Ann Chess, second from right. Her alternates are Shannon Peterman, left, and Noel Schelb, right.



Some of the production winners of the Jacob M. Brunges production contest are, front row, from left, Tristan Dietrich, Melissa Wertz, and Joy McConnell. Second row, from left, Ian Dietrich, Mark Norman, Marsha Ann Chess. Third row, from left, Roberta McConnell, Emily Dietrich, Melanie Dietrich, Pamela McConnell.

Harold Dice of Fredericksburg purchased this calf.

The other one was Irish Creek Lester Shamrock, born March 17, and owned by the Phillips'. Her sire is Highland Duncan Lester, the top bull of the breed.

Lester Martin of Pleasant Valley Jerseys in Chambersburg consigned Pleasant Valley Marshal Rea, which sold for \$700. Martin donated half of that to the cattle club's scholarship fund.

Doris Houck of Peachbottom donated numerous craft items for sale, and Dennis Wagner of Shoemakersville, Berks County, was the auctioneer.

Robin Phillips said they had the best turnout yet — about 200 buyers — for the sale of the best calves they could find.

"There was a big demand," she said. "We had more buyers than calves."

She noted that Scott Youse of Oley, a Delaware Valley College student, professionally fit all of the calves before the sale.

"The consigners were delighted," she said.

All proceeds of the calf sale and the crafts exhibited will cover the costs of transporting state winners to the national show in Louisville, Ky., in November.

Check Conservation Plan Now

LEESPORT (Berks Co.) — The beginning of a new year signals that spring planting is near.

Randy McCormack, district conservationist for the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in Berks County, said the winter months are the ideal time for farmers to check their conservation plan to decide which practices must be installed this year.

Under the 1985 and 1990 Farm Bills, farmers must implement their conservation plan by Jan. 1, 1995 to remain eligible for most U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) farm program benefits.

"Staying in compliance means staying on schedule," said McCormack. "It means applying the practices that are called for in the conservation plan each year."

Most conservation plans outline a specific crop rotation or crop residue management method designed to reduce soil erosion on highly erodible cropland. If the farmer does not follow the plan, he or she may lose benefits such as commodity price supports, agricultural conservation program

payments, disaster payments and Farmers Home Administration loans.

Crop residue management is one of the practices that require planning, McCormack said.

This winter is the best time for farmers to evaluate their tillage plans for spring. The type of tillage equipment and sequence of tillage operations will affect the amount of surface residue left at planting.

McCormack said about 80 to 85 percent of the conservation plans in the county include crop residue management.

Robert Heidecker, state resource conservationist for SCS in Harrisburg, said farmers who have difficulty implementing their plan because of special circumstances such as weather conditions, changes in the farm operations or increased herd size, should contact SCS.

Contact your Soil Conservation Service office early for an appointment to review your plan and schedule assistance.