

Pennmarva Chooses Cooperator Couples

JOYCE BUPP

York County Correspondent
GETTYSBURG (Adams County) — Three young dairy farm couples were announced as winners in the 22nd annual Young Cooperator Program, sponsored June 25-26 at the Ramada Inn by the Pennmarva Dairymen's Federation.

Selected to represent their respective cooperatives are Mary and Kenlin Martin, Smithsburg, Maryland, for the Middle-Atlantic Division of Dairymen, Inc.; David and Judith Gerhart, New Providence, for Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative; and Sean and Tammy Jones, Lumberton, New Jersey, for Atlantic Dairy Cooperative; Separate competitions were held during the two-day meeting by the three Pennmarva Federation member cooperatives.

Mary and Kenlin Martin milk a 50-cow herd of registered Holsteins at their Smithsburg, Maryland dairy farm. Rolling herd average is at 22,500 pounds of milk, and cow type as well as production gets emphasis in this show and merchandising herd. Embryo transfer specialists work with the herd's top cows for donors, with both daughters and sons of the donor individuals marketed.

The Martin's and their three children are members of the Brethren in Christ Church and the couple is active in Holstein and other dairy and community activities. As division winners, Mary and Kenlin will participate in Dairymen's annual meeting and young dairymen competition, to be held December 9-11 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Runners-up for the Dairymen division are Tim and Barb Tinknell, Airville. Tim is herdsman and owns a portion of the milking animals in the herd at Joy-El Farms, owned by Joyce and Ellis Crowl, Airville. The 60-head mixed herd is currently undergoing expansion to 100 cows.

Maryland And Virginia Milk Producers

Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers winners David and Judith Gerhart milk 55 Holsteins on their 148-acre New Providence farm. Herd average is 18,650 pounds milk, 667 pounds fat and 601 pounds protein. They began by working with his father in 1974, then joined in a partnership with his parents four years later. In 1984, David and Judith bought out

the partnership, and in 1990 purchased the farm.

The Gerhart's have two young daughters and take part in numerous agriculture, community and civic activities in their southern Lancaster County area. They will represent Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers at the National Milk Producers Federation annual meeting in Las Vegas and the National Institute of Cooperative Education in Colorado.

First runners-up were Harold and Colleen Smith, Monkton, Maryland. The Smiths are part of the family farm corporation of My Lady's Manor Farm, Inc. Harold is corporation treasurer and responsible for financial activities and merchandising breeding stock from the 230-head of registered Holsteins with a herd average of 28,000 pounds of milk, 779 pounds of fat and 693 pounds of protein. Some 800 acres are cropped to grains, hay and pasture.

The Smith's and their two sons are actively involved in Holstein and area agricultural groups.

Named second runners-up were John and Susan Myers, Union Bridge, Maryland. The Myers' and their two small daughters operate their 350-acre Maryland-Locust Crest Farm, with a 65-head Holstein herd averaging 19,000 pounds of milk, 750 pounds of fat and 625 pounds of protein. John and Susan are active members of numerous county and state ag organizations.

Dean and Carina Elgin, Aldie, Virginia, were Maryland and Virginia's third runners-up. Dean and his brothers operate two family farms, with 1400 acres and 275 head of Holsteins averaging 16,945 pounds of milk, 643 pounds of fat and 544 pounds of protein. The couple has an 11-month-old daughter and participate in a variety of church and organizations activities.

Other participants in the competition were James and Denise Carmack, Detour, Maryland; Samuel and Margaret Fielder III, Jarrettsville, Maryland; Charles and Paula Fry, Tuscarora, Maryland; and Mark and Carolyn Gutschall, Carlisle.

Also Theresa Hamlet, Phenix Virginia; David and Tamera Loy, Littlestown; Darrell and Dottie Martin, Greencastle; David and Terella Sue Rice, Williamsburg; J. Richard and Naomi Speer, East Waterford; and Paul and Carla



Sean and Tammy Jones, seated, are Atlantic Dairy Cooperatives Young Cooperator winning couple. Runners-up are, standing from left, Stanley and Gina Meyers, Herb and Melanie Benner, Andrew and Mary Mellinger, and Joel Love.

Witter, Shippensburg.

Atlantic Dairy Cooperative

Sean and Tammy Jones, young cooperator winners for Atlantic Dairy Cooperative, are part of the Lester C. Jones and Sons, Inc., family farm corporation. The Lumberton, New Jersey, operation includes 1600 acres in hay and grains and a 425-head milking herd averaging 22,761 pounds of milk and 777 pounds of fat. Sean oversees breeding, culling, feeding and employee management responsibilities and Tammy is the corporation bookkeeper.

The Jones' have one child and are very active in area dairy, community and civic organizations. Sean is vice-president of his ADC's District 2 local.

Named first runner-up couple were Stanley and Gina Meyers, Greencastle. Their family partnership with his parents and brother include 575 acres and 132 Holsteins milking a rolling average of 17,835 pounds of milk and 625 pounds fat. Stan handles the cow and heifer feeding program, and the crop and farm management. The couple and their three children are active in their First Church of God and numerous Franklin County agriculture and community organizations. They represented ADC's District 15.

Second runners-up couple Herbert and Melanie Benner milk a herd of 43 Holsteins on their



Mary and Kenlin Martin, left, are to represent the Middle Atlantic Division of Dairymen Inc. annual meeting Young Dairymen contest. Runners-up are Tim and Barb Tinknell.

83-acre farm near Gap. Rolling herd average is 19,646 pounds of milk and 695 pounds of fat. They operate a Bed and Breakfast in their home for area tourists and home school their four children. Herb has served as vice-president and delegate from their District 6 local and both are active in church and community.

Andrew and Mary Mellinger, third runners-up, farm in partnership with his parents on Linden Dale farm near Ronks. The operation includes 96 acres in hay and grains and a 43-head milking herd averaging 21,000 pounds of milk and 742 pounds of fat. Parents of three children, the couple serves in church and township leadership positions; and Andrew has been an alternative delegate for his Atlantic local in District 5.

Joel Love, Blairs Mills, was named ADC's fourth runner-up. He operates with his parents the family's 584-acre, 64-cow herd, with a rolling herd average of 17,297 pounds of milk and 644 pounds of fat. The District 18 dairyman has served as a delegate from his local and is active in church and community.

Atlantic Dairy Cooperative's winners and first runners-up will attend the December National Milk Producers Federation annual meeting in Las Vegas. Second, third and fourth runners-up will attend the National Institute for

Cooperative Education in Colorado during July.

Also participating in the ADC competition were Neal and Debbie Moyer, Perkasio, District 1; Larry and Bonnie Hershey, Manheim, District 7; Elvin and Brenda Kurtz, Elverson, District 8; and Richard and Bonnie Hershey, Behtel, District 9.

Additional participants were Robert and Beth Ranck, Paradise, District 12; Troy and Kathy Zirkle, Manchester, District 16; Randy and Diane Guyer, Martinsburg, District 20; Curtis and Lori Glazier, McConnellsburg, District 21; and Keith and Kathi Heimbach, Granville Summit, District 22.

Speaker for the annual Pennmarva Young Cooperator awards luncheon was William Perry, director of member and governmental affairs for Milk Marketing, Inc.

"You can't change change," Perry told the some two hundred young cooperator participants and guests attending the luncheon gathering.

Cooperatives face changes of dwindling numbers of dairy farmers and less political clout, Perry said. In a world of "haves" and "have nots," Perry told the young couples that, despite cash flow crunches and drought-induced feed problems, farmers are viewed

(Turn to Page A33)



Young Cooperator couple winners for Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers are, from the left, David and Judith Gerhart, Harold and Colleen Smith II, John and Susan Myers and Dean and Carina Elgin.