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Harpster Builds State's Largest Automated Dairy Facility



Taking time from giving some of his cows their first experience in a double-40 milking parlor, R. Wayne Harpster talks to his daughter Christina. The Evergreen Farms' huge dairy facility is the largest commercial dairy herd in the state.

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.

Lancaster Farming Staff
 SEVEN STARS (Huntingdon Co.) — R. Wayne Harpster squinted as he assessed the scene.

He was standing in the middle of one of two new freestall dairy cattle barns, each 888 feet long.

They are designed to house the state's largest commercial milking dairy herd under one roof — more than 1,500 milking cows.

The area is large enough to

house a respectable livestock auction.

From where Harpster stood, the lofty, insulated and vented roof stretched out in opposite directions and seemed to disappear on both horizons.

The distance is beyond the normal ability of the human eye to make clear distinctions, especially with the sunlight coming in from all sides and softly diffusing into

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Ag Progress Issue Coming

The time for the annual Ag Progress Days in Rockspring is here again. Show time is Tuesday, August 18 to Thursday, August 20. Next week's issue will feature full preparation coverage with maps, lists of exhibitors and a program guide to help you find your way at Penn State's research farm.

In addition, numerous articles will give background on the many subjects covered at this machinery demonstration and educational attraction. And advertisers will have messages about their products that will be on display.

State Pseudorabies Recommendations

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — An evening meeting of swine industry representatives and state Department of Agriculture officials was held July 29, at the state agriculture building.

The meeting resulted in eight recommendations for the control of pseudorabies, a viral disease occurring primarily in swine.

The recommendations are:

1. Emphasis should be placed on the proper identification of blood samples taken at the slaughterhouse for pseudorabies surveillance testing. Coordination of blood samples with back tags is frequently not as accurate as it should be, thereby minimizing the

effectiveness of tracebacks.

2. Movement of quarantined pigs to non-infected areas should be restricted and limited to counties free of pseudorabies.

3. Biosecurity and sanitation of buying stations, slaughter houses and swine conveyances associated with these facilities should be strengthened.

4. Because Pennsylvania is a major player in regional and national marketing of swine, efforts to eradicate pseudorabies from Pennsylvania should be coordinated with neighboring and all other northeastern states.

5. Vaccination of farms bordering infested herds is essential to

prevent the spread of pseudorabies.

6. A successful program must have four key components, as follows:

- Herd management plans for all infected herds.
- A successful testing program.

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Chester Holstein Picnic Set

OXFORD (Chester Co.) — The Chester County Holstein Picnic is scheduled Thursday, August 13, at the Dunwood Farm of Alvin Stoltzfus. The farm is located along Route 896, one and one-half miles north of Russelville. Starting time is 10 a.m.

The Dunwood herd average is over 24,000m; 950f; 3.3%p with a BAA 106. Half the herd is classified Excellent or Very Good and many in the herd are from the Dun-

wood Golden and Cola families.

Speaker for the picnic is Dave Rama, Delhi, New York. Rama is a Holstein merchandiser and reader of pedigrees. His subject will be "Breeding To Merchandise."

A pork roast dinner is planned: adults, \$4.00; children, ages 4-12, \$2.00; and children under 4 are free. Call Ken Unble now for reservations. Phone: (215) 593-2274.

Hog Producers To Elect Delegates

KUTZTOWN (Berks Co.) — Notice is hereby given that the election of pork producer delegate candidates for the 1993 National Pork Producers Delegate Body will take place at 8:00 p.m., Thursday, August 20, 1992, in conjunction with a board of directors meeting of the PA Pork Producers Council at the Region VI office of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture in Summerdale, PA. All Pennsylvania Pork

Producers are invited to attend.

Any producer who is a resident of the state and has paid all assessments due under the national 100% checkoff may be considered a delegate candidate and participate in voting. Nominations will be taken from the floor at the time of election. For more information contact the PA Pork Producers Council, 1631 Grim Road, Kutztown, PA 19530. Phone (215) 285-6519.



From sunup to sundown brothers Gene, right, and Jim Schopf are either picking produce from 40 acres to stock four of their produce stands or caponizing chickens. "We might be young, but we got lots of experience," said Gene, who estimates that he has caponized 50,000 chickens.

Schopf Brothers: Entrepreneurs

LOU ANN GOOD
 Lancaster Farming Staff

SILVER SPRING (Lancaster Co.) — Gene Schopf started his first business when he was only a senior in high school. Eight years later, he has several thriving businesses, which include owning a farm, a custom caponizing business, and a produce business estab-

lished at four different Lancaster County locations.

"My brother Jim is my sidekick," Gene said. The two brothers share more than almost identical appearances. They are both extremely energetic and enthusiastic about their work.

"We work hard, but it's enjoyable," Gene said of their 18-hour

whelming response to this program," Wolff said. "We received many more good applications than we could fund."

The organizations were able to apply for direct grants of up to \$2,500 and matching grants of up to \$15,000. Direct grants will be used to fund educational projects,

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days that sometimes extend to midnight. "The harder you work, the better quality you get, and the more things you sell. You can't run a part-way business and be successful."

The brothers, who grew up on their father's (Ed Schopf) farm in Mountville, learned to caponize chickens at an early age. The boys

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