

Chester Holstein Picnic Draws Crowd

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

OXFORD (Chester Co.)—"What a blessing it is to live in a rural setting and especially on the farm," said Alvin Stoltzfus as he gave a welcome to the more than 200 visitors to Dunwood Farm at the Chester County Holstein picnic on Thursday. "There is no better place to raise a family."

"And I have noticed the children here today," Stoltzfus said. "So the future for dairying looks good in Chester County."

The picnic drew one of the largest crowds in recent years as breeders from Maryland and Lancaster County came to see the well-known herd of cow families and visit with fellow Holstein breeders.

Stoltzfus said that their long range breeding patterns and goals have stayed about constant. They breed for production, feed for protein and butterfat and cull for type. He said this plan may change a little in the future because production has become easier to obtain.

In the last several years, more two-year-olds milk more than 80 pounds of milk and they have five in the herd now that milked more than 90 pounds.

"We still like cow families,"

Stoltzfus said "The blessing I have experienced has been continuing the cow families that my dad started years ago. We basically use the top 15 TPI bulls matched with Triple A.

Guest speaker was Dave Rama, a Holstein merchandiser. Rama said registered Holsteins expand your horizons and give you a chance to add extra dollars to your milk check. He said breeders need to stay focused on their goals and listed three possible directions to develop a top merchandiseable herd.

The three directions are: 1. select and breed for high protein and high index; 2. breed for the red factor; or 3. develop a show string.

But in each of these directions you need type. Rama said that without type you have nothing.

In quoting Horace Backus, Rama said you should buy the best genetics you can afford and then breed them better. He urged dairymen to add new genetics into their herds so they could stay in the forefront of the registered Holstein business.

Walter Wurster, Chester County agent, reported that ground has been given for a new 4-H center. Located along Route 322 between

Guthersville and Honey Brook, 15 acres of ground has been given for the center, and funds will need to be raised to build buildings.

Wurster also said he was working on the county tax reassessment agenda to try to help farmers not to be taxed more than necessary on their properties. "We need to try to get us off this property tax," Wur-

ster said. "There is no reason why more of the taxes can't be raised from an income tax. Farmers don't mind paying taxes on years when they are making it. But when you are not making it and you still must pay that property tax, that is tough."

In the morning judging contest, winners were named as follows:

Youth, Paul Zimmerman Jr.; Audry Hostetter, and Christy Guest.

Women, Sandy Lusby, Janette Brooks, and Kathy Guest.

Men, David Kulp, Stan Guest, Rob Nolan, and Dan Rush.

Noel Scheib, Chester County dairy princess, told of her work and made a presentation for milk.

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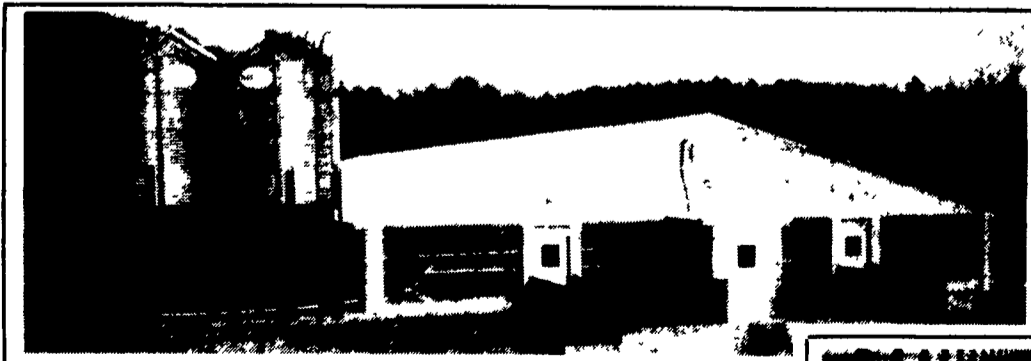
Winners in the morning judging contest are Stan Guest, David Kulp, and Sandy Lusby.

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