All American Deadlines Near

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — "Dairy cattle breeders won't want to miss the opportunity to exhibit their animals at the Pennsylvania All-American Dairy Show, our premier dairy cattle exposition," said show manager Charles Itle. "The first entry deadline is August 21, 1992."

With six national show titles up for grabs and almost $100,000 in premiums, this is a show that breeders must include in their 1992 show schedule. Each year, more than 2,300 head of dairy cattle are paraded around the Large Arena in hopes of gaining not only first place, but the $1,000 supreme champion prize as well.

All entries must be submitted on forms provided by the All-American Dairy Show. Entries postmarked on or before August 21 will be accepted at $15 per animal. Entries postmarked after August 21 through Sept. 3 will be accepted at $25 per animal. All entries should include a production record.

Exhibitors in the Pennsylvania Junior Dairy Show wishing to show their animals in the Pennsylvania All-American Dairy Show open shows must submit their entries on or before August 21 and include a production record and the $15 entry fee.

For more information and complete entry forms please contact the Pennsylvania All-American Dairy Show, Farm Show Complex, 2301 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408. The 29th Pennsylvania All-American Dairy Show will be held Sept. 21-24 at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg.

Ag Progress Highlights Conservation

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the hill according to slope. There is a perforated pipe into which surface water drains to a submerged drain system.

A diversion is an open-ended terrace with a sod backside (and grass bottom on steeper slopes), which allows a slow, minimally erosive flow of surface water across a hill, perpendicular to the slope.

These devices are used for fields intended primarily for hay crops, which are then mowed.

Surface water flow is diverted to a grass waterway, or as in the case of the fields at Rockspring, a rock-lined waterway. Because of the steepness and volume of flow, the rocks were seen as superior to grasses in preventing a flow of water from removing the softer soil underneath.

The rocks also create a multitude of small pockets of slower water where heavier soil particals are deposited. Eventually, the deposited soils serve to foster plants, which further aids the protective strength of the waterway.

Dave Houser, representing the fish commission, gave a brief overview of stream crossings; human access devices, such as a baffle gate and fence ladders; and various fencing alternatives.

(Also as general advice with the stream crossings, House said that they may be installed in a stream after securing a DER General Permit No.6.)

Houser did not go into detail about fencing set-back distances, though generally, the smaller the water flow, the amount of streambank protection needed is proportionally larger, though not necessarily larger in acreage.

Under normal circumstances, the larger and wider the flow of water, the less of a swath of streambank is needed for protection because of the typical low slope and reduced affect on the stream which is getting a large amount of water from upstream sources.

This is so because the distinction between streambank and main watershed becomes less as a body of flowing water is followed upstream.

In effect, terraces and grass and rocklined waterways are somewhere between watershed and waterflow — there is no constant waterflow, but after a rain, water will flow as a body through these areas. In proportion to waterflow, the amount of streambank protection here is probably greatest.

Similarly, wetlands are part of a flowing body of water. They are part of the reserve areas which maintain a more constant year-round flow in the main stream.

Whether water is visible or not at all times of the year, when it rains, water collects in these areas and feeds slowly into either groundwater, streams, other standing bodies of water, or evaporates back into the atmospheric portion of the hydrologic cycle.

During the general tour, wetlands restoration was discussed briefly by Barry Isaacs, with the Department of Environmental Resources (DER).

Isaacs discussed the restored wetlands that was put in since last year to demonstrate what wetlands are.

This particular restoration was actually a creation, since the original soil was saturated (hydric) and was technically and practically a wetlands that had been drained with the use of tile fields etc.

The restoration included a stone seep area and a small, bullreed lined puddle of standing water.

The stone seep area was created by scooping out a shallow depression below a naturally wet area. Also, a drain from an uphill water runoff collection bowl empties there.

The water seeps further down hill to collect in the pond-like puddle.

He said the area of the standing water and rock seep is now wetter than it was, but the surrounding area is now drier than it was.

The value of wetlands was outlined by Isaacs; flood control, the water cleansing attributes, the wildlife habitat and the esthetic values, etc.

He said that while controversy exists over the definitions of wetlands for legal interpretations, there is a new pilot federal program which would pay landowners to restore wetlands and maintain them, similar to the Conservation Reserve Program, under which landowners are paid not to perform practices which will knowingly erode soil.

He said there has already been 30 restorations in Pennsylvania and there's a waiting list of at least 200 who want to restore wetlands on their properties.

Also, during the tour, Wayne Ray pointed out a large sinkhole adjacent to the tent city that is Ag Progress grounds proper.

Ray explained that sinkholes are the easiest natural access to groundwater and surface water carrying acids and other contaminents can not only contaminate those groundwaters, but expidite further disolving of the limestone rockbed which supports the topsoils, thereby encouraging further and more rapid development of other sinkholes.

These are concerns not just for the rural landowner, but also of concern to urban areas where surface water contamination by automobile fluids and carbon residues, lawn chemicals and pesticides are also a large problem.

On another part of the tour, almost as a second thought, Ray pointed out a small field that had been set up as a no-till wildlife planting.

This marginal field area was tilled with the same equipment used in the fields, he said, adding that landowners may be able to take wildlife pressure off of valuable crop fields by planting more preferable crops on the field edge.

He said that in the demonstration plot, sorghum, sudan grass and buckwheat was planted.

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