

Mercer Extension Offers Tour

MERCER (Mercer Co.) — A three-day tour of North Carolina farms is being offered through Penn State extension offices in Mercer, Erie and Meadville for Dec. 8, 9 and 10.

Open to all, the tour has been designed for dairymen who are considering expanding or remodeling, involving the next generation into the business, and for those wanting to explore new technologies in housing, feeding, waste management or banking.

The deadline for reserving a seat on the bus-and-motel trip is Nov. 30. Reservations are accepted on a first-come basis and last year some people were turned away because reservations were all taken before the deadline, according to a pamphlet circulated by the extension offices.

The bus transportation cost is \$55 each and payment must accompany reservations. Additional costs are for motel accommodations and food.

On Dec. 8, the tour is to leave Edinboro Inn, in Edinboro at 6 a.m., travel to Meadville, then depart there at 6:30 a.m., travel to Mercer County Extension office and depart for North Carolina at 7 a.m.

On the schedule, about 3 p.m., the first farm visited is to be a 200-cow loose housing operation owned by Joe, Don and Pam Dickenson. They milk three-times-per day, have a herd average of 26,000 pounds of milk and feed grass haylage, ammoniated corn silage and one milking total mixed ration. They pasture heifers.

A 5:30 p.m., an order-from-the menu dinner is set for Wester Steer, Galax. Speaker is to be Dr. Bob James, a researcher with the UPI Department of Dairy Science. He is to talk about dairy heifer and calf management.

A 8 p.m., the busses stop for the night at Holiday Inn, Jonesville, N.C. Cost of a double is \$47, and \$42 for a single.

On Dec. 9, the busses leave the Holiday Inn at 8 a.m. for Meyers Dairy, a new 500-cow freestall operation. The two freestalls are drive-through and also have mattress stalls, a double-12, rapid exit parlor with parlor ID and computers. It also has an elevated bed calf barn.

At 11 a.m., the tour goes to GK Davis with a 400-cow, mattress freestall building with a slotted floor. The cows average 21,000 pounds of milk. A highlight is the dry cow ration which includes the use of ionic salts.

Lunch for Wednesday is \$6. On the schedule for 1 p.m. is a tour of the Kevin and Kelly Lutz farm, Treasure Chest Jerseys. A 100-cow operation averaging 13,000 pounds of milk on two-times milking. They will discuss ionic salts in dry cow ration and sales within the Jersey breed.

At 3:45 p.m., the tour is to go to the Piedmont Research Station, owned by the N.C. Department of

Agriculture.

Then at 6:30 p.m., the tour stops for the evening at Park Lane Motel, in Greensboro. Rates are \$52 per room, double or single occupancy.

At 8 a.m. Thursday, the tour leaves for Reedy Fork Farms, a six-generation family farm which switched from a tobacco farm to dairy in 1950 and now has a 200 head Holstein and Jersey herd.

Three other stops are on tap for the day before leaving back to northwestern Pennsylvania at 3:30

p.m.

Included are the 225-head freestall Covington Dairy; a 150-cow Shasta Dairy that features a 21,200 pounds of milk rolling herd average and has used intensive grazing since 1987; and also the Bowman Dairy, a double-8 herringbone inside return parlor and computerization, which is in the process of transferring ownership from generation to generation.

For more information, contact either of extension offices in Mercer, Erie or Crawford counties.

Regional Meetings Set

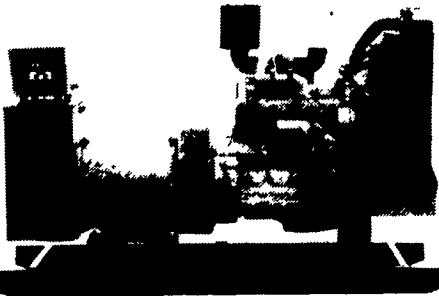
YORK (York Co.) — The Farm and Natural Lands Trust will host a series of regional meetings on land preservation economics, tax benefits, protection programs, and alternatives during December.

The meetings are scheduled for the following: Monday, Dec. 7 at Lower Windsor Township building; Wednesday, Dec. 9 at Spring Grove Borough building; Thursday, Dec. 10 at Dover Township building; Monday, Dec. 14 at East

Manchester Township building; and Tuesday, Dec. 15 at South-eastern Middle School. All meetings will begin at 7:30 p.m. There is no registration fee.

The public is invited to attend the meetings, which should be of special interest to landowners, accountants, and estate planners. For further information, call the Farm and Natural Lands Trust at (717) 757-7012.

GENERATORS



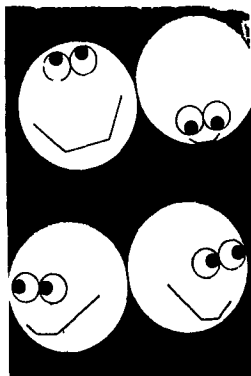
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