

Lancaster Holstein Association Honors Members

MT. JOY (Lancaster Co.) — Lancaster County Holstein Breeders Association met at Country Table Restaurant in Mt. Joy recently for its annual business-banquet to honor members and elect officers.

The group also sponsors a three-age-class program rewarding the efforts of its junior members who submitted projects books for competition with a Holstein heifer calf offered as the prize for the winner among those youth aged 13 to 16 years old.

The winner of the calf this year was Tom Herr, son Tom and Barb Herr, of Christiana. The calf was donated by Harold Shellenberger and is a Sept. 1 calf, Shelmar Acres Blackstar Brenna. In addition to being sired by Blackstar, the pedigree of the dams includes sires Rotate, Peter, Apollo and Ivanhoe.

In the 12 and under group, the winner was Ashley Meck, son of Ron and Joyce Meck, Denver. Meck won a show box.

In the senior youth group, Jessica Oberholtzer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clair Oberholtzer, Elizabethtown, was first in the older group winning a tip to the national convention.

New directors elected to the board, out of six nominated, were Jack Coleman, Dale Hershey and Dr. Larry Kennel.

A reorganization meeting is scheduled for 8 p.m., Dec. 4, at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center.

The group's financial status was reported as positive with a higher ending balance than the previous year.

Also of note was a change in savings strategy. Because of low interest rates, the group decided against rolling over a certificate of deposit which had matured, and instead invested the CD amount into an Agway account which offered higher interest earnings.

Steve Hershey presided over the meeting. Heather Becker, Lancaster County alternate dairy princess, also gave a brief talk about her experiences promoting dairy products.

The production awards were made following entertainment by magician John Westford.

Two awards are presented per

age class to the owner of the top producing cow. One award is based on milk production. The other was made based on total component weights, in other words the addition of the pounds of fat and protein production.

In the junior 2-year-old class, Robert Gochenaur received the milk production award with his cow, "1," making 28,695 pounds. Steve Hershey's cow, "75," garnered the class title for fat-protein production with a total weight of 1,854 pounds produced during a lactation.

In the senior 2-year-old class, Fultonway Farm received the award for milk production with cow "Drummer" recording 29,854 pounds. Spring Bell Farm walked away with the fat and protein award with "Marilyn" making 1,957 pounds total.

Spring Bell Farm's 3-year-old cow "Day" won both production awards in her class recording 31,929 pounds of milk and 2,261 pounds total fat and protein.

Steve Hershey's cow "11" was top milk producer among the LCHBA's members' 4-year-old cows, recording 32,400 pounds. Donegal Creek Farm received the component production award with cow "Ritzy" making a total of 2,123 pounds.

In the senior cow class, Spring Bell Farm's "Maybe" was top milk producer with 33,655 pounds recorded. Stonerdale Holsteins' "Mabel" earned the production award with a total component production of 2,344 pounds.

In the youth awards programs, there were three production age classes offered for entries.

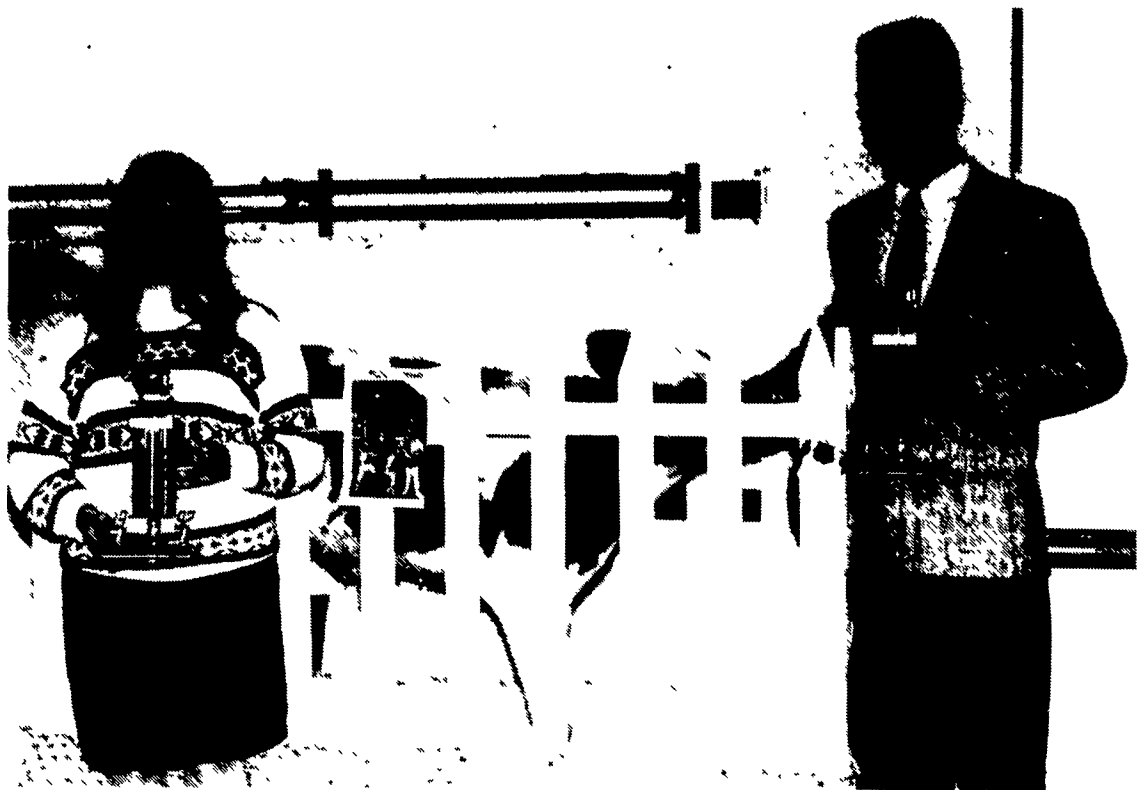
A 2-year-old Holstein cow owned by Lisa Howard, daughter of John and Susan Howard of Howcrest Holsteins, was the top producer with 25,576 pounds of milk, 975 pounds of fat and 841 pounds of protein.

In the junior member's 3-year-old class, Janelle Wivell's Donegal Creek Kandi was top with 28,222 pounds of milk, 1,509 pounds of fat and 905 pounds of protein.

It was reported that the number of the association's youth who entered the Distinguished Junior



Lancaster County Holstein Breeders Association production award winners are, from the left, Steve Hershey (also president), David Stoner, Roger Mills and son Darrel Mills, Sandy Thomas and Robert Gochenaur.



From the left, Lisa Howard holds her production award for having the highest producing 2-year-old in the junior production contest of the Lancaster County Holstein Breeders Association, while Tom Herr holds his trophy for having the highest producing, junior-owned aged cow. Herr also rubs the neck of the high-pedigree heifer calf he won for having the best project book among 13- to 16-year-old junior members.

Member Contest had increased from three in 1991, to 12 this past year. At the same time, the number of age divisions was increased to

three, which may be partly responsible for the increase in contestants.

The purpose of the contest is to

develop leadership skills. The age divisions were increased to provide more equity in competitive experience.

Maryland Dairy Task Force Studies Possible Strategies

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- Have the authority to cooperate with other states to prevent disruptive milk marketing practices through the possible establishment of an informal pact between the states;

- Have the authority to establish minimum wholesale prices, if the commission, following a hearing, deems it appropriate; and

- Establish user fees that will fund the mission without tax-dollar support.

With a Maryland proposal, the Task Force foresees the enactment of a Milk Commission allowing state to band together to eliminate disruptive pricing practices and stabilize dairying in the entire region.

Another idea presented by Jesse Burall, Monrovia, another member of the Task Force, is to form a Dairy Producers Council.

"It was concluded that, even though there were several groups or organizations that could voice dairy farmer concerns, there needs

to be a group that would unify dairy producer concerns and proposals," Burall explained.

The Council's mission would be to "promote the dairy profession through efficient and profitable business and management practices, while improving the quality of life for its present and future members." Task Force members foresee the Council being patterned after the highly-successful Virginia State Dairymen's Association.

Burall elaborated that the Council's purposes would be:

- To provide an organized voice for the Maryland dairy industry;

- To promote profitability in the dairy business;

- To promote a positive and professional image for the dairy industry;

- To provide educational programs;

- To provide a forum for the interchange of ideas;

- To identify challenges facing the Maryland dairy industry and possible solutions.

Under the proposal, any dairy farmer could be a member, with

funding provided by a fee based on gross milk check receipts. Virginia funds at the rate of \$1.40 for each one thousand dollars of gross milk check. At that fee level, 3,000-pound per day shipper would invest \$16.83, or 1.8-cents per hundredweight, per month.

The Task Force is further studying a proposal to give local preferential treatment on state bids for milk products, and possibly other commodities as well. Under the proposal, a contract could be awarded to a local processor, if the contract bid is no more than two percent higher than that of an out-of-state bidder.

Burall cited the awarding of six Maryland contracts for dairy products totally over \$1 million that were awarded to out-of-state processors using out-of-state milk. Local processors were underbid by only a combined total of \$25,000 on the more than \$1 million contracts.

Task Force members plan to discuss the proposals across the state at dairy and agribusiness meetings throughout the fall and winter months.

Lancaster DHIA Banquet Scheduled

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.)—The Lancaster DHIA Banquet is scheduled for Tuesday, December 8, at Good and Plenty Restaurant. Starting time is 11:30 a.m.

President Robert Wenger said various representatives of Raleigh and Mid-East are expected to attend and a proposed by-law change will be presented. Wenger said that since the County DHIA is now operating as an independent rather than a federated organization under Pennsylvania, the by-laws need to reflect this change.



Reports:

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Jay Irwin, county agent emeritus, will show slides of his stay in Poland.

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