

Smysers Top York DHIA

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SHREWSBURY (York Co.) —**

Smyser's Richlawn Farm topped the York County DHIA production list, taking top awards for the sixth consecutive year.

The 75-head East Berlin registered Holstein herd was high herd overall in all three categories for the year of October 1991 through September 1992 with a herd average of 26,105 pounds milk, 796 pounds protein, and 932 pounds fat. Owned and operated by brothers Rodney and Robert Smyser, the Richlawn herd has consistently taken all three high production awards since 1987.

Two individual record awards also went to Richlawn — the high individual 305-day milk record of 34,851 pounds and high individual lifetime production of fat with a 9,129-pound record.

Continuing fine tuning of production, milk quality, and reproduction efficiency combined to place the Smyser herd at the top of a new award category, herd management, with a score of 128 points.

Beshore Farms, New Cumberland, was second high, with a score of 109 points. Other top 10 winners included Ramsey S. Cooper, Jr., Delta, 106; Wayne Myers, Dover, 104; Melvin and Barb Marks, Airville, 99; Gum Tree Farm, Brogue, 98; Furnace Creek Farm, Hanover, 98; Lauren K. Bair, Hanover, 96; Ted and Dianne Haberland, Thomasville, 94; Dale E. Ranck, Delta, 93; and Thomas Boyer, York, 93.

McRal Dairy, owned and operated by Ralph and Ada McGregor, East Berlin, claimed a pair of top York DHIA awards. High individual 305-day fat record, 1,338 pounds, went to the McRal herd, along with the award for high individual lifetime production for milk, 251,973 pounds.

High individual 305-day pro-



Rodney and Joyce Smyser accepted a half dozen York DHIA awards for the family's Smyser's Richlawn Farm. The Richlawn herd topped the county for production of milk, protein, and fat.

tein production award went to the herd of Leonard Greek, Delta, on a 1,057-pound protein record.

A quality production award, for the county's low somatic cell count average, went to Ed and Carolyn Calhoun, Glen Rock. The Calhoun's average SCC for the twelve-month period was 84,000.

Other herds in the top five low SCC category included Lauren Bair, Hanover, 111,000; Leaspring Farm, York, 112,000; Ramsey S. Cooper, Jr., 129,000; and Rutter's, York, 135,000.

Two awards were presented to herds achieving high herd average increases based on protein production. In herds over 600 pounds protein, highest increase award went to Furnace Creek Farm,

Frank and Sandy Feeser, Hanover, with a 95-pound protein increase. Lauren Bair, Hanover, earned the highest increase in the under-600 pounds category, with an increase of 85 pounds protein in his herd average.

York County DHIA supervisors were recognized with bonus checks for outstanding performance. Technicians supervising the county's herd test program are Abbe Gore, Donald and Deb Mesinger, Jean Myers, Carolyn and Clyde Stump, and Marianne Walter.

Neil McCullough, Newville, state DHIA director from the Central District, reported on state progress and programs that will affect members of the testing



York County DHIA award winners included Bob Martin accepting for McRal Dairy, seated. Standing from left, Lauren Bair, Ed Calhoun, Leonard Greek, and John Doll.

program. He acknowledged that change has marked the past year of DHIA activities, resulting in the introduction of several new programs.

Laptop computers will be introduced for on-farm use by technicians within the next 15 months, enabling records to be returned for use much more rapidly than in the past. As of January 1, 1993, members can "pick and choose" which information they wish to receive from the DHIA testing. This allows members to customize the

package of records and information they receive from their monthly test to their own herd management needs.

County DHIA president Gary Thoman, Dallastown, was reelected to a second term during the business meeting, along with new directors Ted Haberland, Thomasville and Vincent Hushon,

Other county DHIA directors are Melvin Marks, Airville; Lisa Kilgore, Airville; Leroy Walker, New Freedom; Scott Cooper, Delta; and Greg Perry, York.

Tillage Meeting Looks At Long-Term Results

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include the Cooperative Extension System at land-grant universities in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. Assistance is provided by interested agribusiness representatives.

William M. Edwards, USDA soil scientist, will lead off the earthworm-groundwater issue with a 10 a.m. presentation on "Long-Term Effects of Conservation Tillage." Edwards is stationed at the North Appalachian Experimental Watershed Research Unit near Coshocton, Ohio. The unit operates under auspices of the USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

An afternoon panel of farmers from three states will close out the afternoon session, telling about their long-term experiences with conservation tillage.

Lynn D. Hoffman will be the panel moderator. Hoffman is agronomy superintendent at Penn State's Russell E. Larson Research Center near Rock Springs, Pa.

The panel members include R. Wayne Harpster of Spruce Creek, Pa. (Huntingdon County); David L. Herbst of Ringgold, Md. (Washington County), and Lyle C. (Cam) Tabb IV of Leetown, W.

Va. (Jefferson County). All are dairy farmers with sizable crop operations.

Harpster owns and manages Evergreen Farms, encompassing 2,500 acres and a modern dairy facility with 1,100 milking cows. He is a past president of the Pennsylvania Holstein Association and a member of the national Holstein type advisory committee. His land is located near the southern end of the Mid-State Trail, a 55-mile rocky hiking path through Bald Eagle and Rothrock state forests, administered by the Penn State Outing Club.

Herbst farms 500 acres in western Maryland, a short distance south of the Mason-Dixon Line and west of the famous Appalachian Trail. He has an 80-cow Holstein milking herd.

Tabb has a milking herd of 325 Ayrshire cows. His 1,600-acre farm is located only a few miles west of the Potomac River and the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.

Activities at the Dec. 17 event will run from 8 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Tickets for the noon lunch are available at \$6 each from county offices of the Cooperative Extension Service throughout the Mid-Atlantic area. They must be pur-

chased in advance, and not later than Dec. 7.

Nearly 500 farmers and agribusiness representatives are expected to attend this year's Mid-Atlantic Conservation Tillage Conference. At least 25 commercial and educational exhibits will be on hand.

Many of the commercial exhibitors will participate in a "What's New from Industry" breakout session on both the morning and afternoon program.

Among the "What's New" highlights will be a presentation on New Stone by a regional manager of the American Soybean Association. New Stone is a product that looks like granite and handles like wood. It is made from waste paper and soybean resin.

Chairing the planning committee for the Dec. 17 six-state conference is Paul H. Craig, an agricultural agent in Dauphin County, Pa., for the Penn State Extension Service.

Donald M. Schwartz, Jr., of Keedysville, Md., is vice chairman. Schwartz is an agricultural agent in Washington County for the Cooperative Extension Service, Maryland Institute for Agriculture and Natural Resources. MIANR is a part of the University

of Maryland System.

This year's conference site, the Embers Inn and Convention Center, is located at 1700 Harrisburg Pike (U.S. Highway 11), near the

intersection with Interstate Highway 81 at Carlisle, Pa. If traveling on the Pennsylvania Turnpike, take Exit 16. Registration begins at 8 a.m. in the Kistler Lobby.

Miller Wins Seat

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Residents of western Berks County will be calling Tulpehocken Township farmer Sheila Miller "Representative" beginning Jan. 5 when the new state Legislature is sworn in.

Rep.-elect Miller defeated six Republicans in the April primary and then won election to the 129th Legislative District in November with a plurality of nearly 2,500 votes.

She will replace Rep. John S. Davies who is retiring after serving 18 years in the House.

Miller received a degree in general agriculture from Penn State University. She was a soil conservationist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, assistant editor and reporter for the Lancaster Farming newspaper and for nine years was executive director of the state Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee.

She is past president of the Berks/Southeast Cattlemen's Association, a member of the Pennsylvania Livestock Association, the state Polled Hereford Association, the state and national cattlemen's associations, the Berks County Farmers Association, the Marion Grange and the Pennsylvania Ag Republicans.

Miller stressed that her experience as a legislative staff person will enable her to hit the ground running as member of the state House.

"With more than nine years experience as a staff person in the state Senate, I have worked on many key pieces of legislation involving agriculture, drunk driving and child abuse," she said. "I understand the process of moving through bureaucratic red tape in order to provide service to constituents."

Miller also campaigned strongly on the issue of education, the environment, crime and drug abuse prevention.

Miller and her husband, Michael, farm in Tulpehocken Township where they have lived for more than a decade. The couple's daughter, Emilie, is a student at Tulpehocken Elementary School.