### "Dairy Fun Night" To Offer Family, Celebrity Fun

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) - For a third consecutive year.

Pennsylvania's dairy industry will be celebrated by families and visitors to the 1993 Pennsylvania Farm Show.

"Dairy Fun Night" returns to recognize the state's leading agricultural industry and give people a greater understanding of the nutritional values of dairy products. This special evening of fun will be held on Tuesday, January 12, "Dairy Day," beginning at 6:15 p.m. in the Small Arena of the Farm Show Complex.

The evening of entertainment, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program (PDPP), will include a variety of activities for everyone to enjoy. These events include an "Ice Cream Churn-off Contest," a "Dairy Obstacle Contest," "Dairy Feud," a "Milk Mustache Contest," and a celebrity "Cow Milking and Butter Making Contest." The evening will also include special visits by the "Pittsburgh Parrot," and Pennsylvania's State Dairy Royalty. Christopher Fickes, of WIMX radio, Harrisburg, will serve as the official Master of Ceremonies for the event.

The "Ice Cream Churn-off" will begin the evening's activities. Eight teams will compete in this event to create the best homemade ice cream. Previous flavor winners have included raspberry, chocolate, dutch apple, and more. Entries will be judged by the creativeness used in preparation, the use of dairy products, the taste and visual appeal of the ice cream, and the ease of preparation.

Running concurrent to the ice cream contest, families and other teams will be competing in the

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event is designed to simulate activities on the dairy farm and will involve three team members competing in three different stations. The first station will involve the stacking of several hay/straw bales. The next will be more challenging, testing one's ability to dodge "cow pies." Finally, the last team member will be distributing milk from a large milk can into several small milk bottles.

"Dairy Feud" will be next on the agenda. This is designed after the popular television show, with "dairy" questions involved. Two teams of area media personnel will be responding to questions such as, "Of one hundred surveyed people, what was the most popular flavor of ice cream?" Show visitors will be able to join the challenge and test their knowledge of dairy products

and the state's industry.

Everyone attending the show will be able to participate in the next event. Audience members will be able to sign-up for the "Milk Mustache Contest." To compete, people will be required to drink a glass of milk to create the best milk mustache. There are ne age categories but previous competition has shown that any-

one, regardless of age, can create a special milk mustache.

The evening will conclude with one of the more interesting events, "Cow Milking and Butter Making." This will involve teams of area celebrities. One person will milk the cow, and the second person will make butter. The winning team will be the group able to complete both activities in the shortest period of time.

### **Nutrient Management** Can Boost Farm Profitability

HUNTINGDON (Huntingdon Co.) — Improving nutrient management practices can boost profitability on some farms, according to a recent study conducted by Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

Agricultural economists Wes Musser and James Shortle surveyed 371 Pennsylvania dairy farmers about a variety of topics, including manure management. The results indicate that many farmers may spend more money than necessary on fertilizer because they aren't using optimal manure management practices.

"Accounting for nitrogen available from manure and legumes when deciding how much fertilizer to use on corn seems to have benefits," said Musser. "For a farm with 106 acres and 65 dairy cows. including these nutrients in fertilization decisions could increase profits by as much as \$1,700 per

"Manure was applied by 319 respondents to an average of 55.6 acres of com," said Shortle. "A toture on their fields less frequently than every two years, 42 every other year, 228 every year and 20 more than once per year. Obviously, manure is an important source of nutrients for most of these farmers."

Of the 319 farmers, 226 applied manure in solid form only. Thirtyfive farmers applied liquid manure that was not injected or incorporated into the soil, while 23 applied liquid manure that was injected or incorporated into the soil. Another 38 respondents applied both solid and liquid manure.

Seventy-two farmers applied manure only to corn, but 231 respondents applied manure to other crops. The largest number, 125, applied manure daily, and 70 respondents applied manure in the fall, winter, and spring.

Unless manure is incorporated into the soil shortly after application, crops can't receive all of its nutrient benefits. The nutrients are susceptible to runoff during rains and directly cause surface water pollution. Yet more than 60 percent of the respondents either waited more than six days to incorporate manure or did not incorporate it all

To realize the full nutrient benefits from manure, a manure storage facility is necessary so that the manure can be applied when it can be incorporated safely into the soil, rather than when the ground is frozen, wet or otherwise unsuitable. But 109 farmers were without manure storage facilities.

Although many farmers may gain by improving nutrient management practices, the researchers note that nutrient management plans may adversely affect incomes on some farms.

"Farmers who are currently managing their nutrients in the most profitable way still may have surplus manure and nutrient losses from erosion," said Shortle.

## al of 29 respondents spread man-"Dairy Obstacle Contest." This MAGNUM 90

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