

## Juniata County DHIA Meets

**MEXICO** (Juniata Co.) — Speerette Farm of Blairs Mill, owned by Naomi and Richard Speer, was honored recently for having the top producing rolling herd in Juniata County among members of the county's Dairy Herd Improvement Association (DHIA).

The award went to the Speers during the annual meeting of the Juniata County DHIA, held late December at the Walker Grange Hall in Mexico.

The Speers' 61-head Holstein herd averaged 23,287 pounds of milk, 732 pounds of protein, and 847 pounds of butterfat.

According to year-end data contained in the annual Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association yearbooks, Speerette Farm moved to first this year from sixth in the county last year with 20,661 pounds of milk, 758 pounds of butterfat, 650 pounds of protein for 1991 production.

In fact, Speerette Farm has advanced production significantly since 1990 production when they ranked sixteenth with production at 18,190 pounds of milk, 676 pounds fat, and 587 pounds of protein.

However, the rest of the county's DHIA members have been improving also.

Of the 83 herds on test in the county for 1992, four posted protein averages of 700 or more pounds, and 25 herds had averages of more than 600 pounds.

There were 64 herds enrolled in the Pa.DHIA somatic cell testing program. The average count for Juniata County herds was 398,000. Nine herds completed the testing year with somatic cell counts (SCCs) of less than 200,000.

Recognition for the county's lowest SCC herd was tied between two Port Royal farms — one run by R.E. Shearer and family, the other by Fred Shoop. The two dairy operations shared a year average of 117,000.

The county herd management award went to Timothy Lauver of Mifflintown whose 38 Holsteins increased production 4,507 pounds of milk, 99 pounds of fat, and 171 pounds of protein.

The herd management award, in its second year, recognizes the major management factors that contribute to the profitability of a dairy enterprise. Criteria for the

award include production improvement, sustained production, mastitis management, and reproductive management.

A number of individuals received recognition for having cows achieve production of more than 750 pounds of protein, or 850 pounds of fat, or 23,000 pounds of milk. A total of 211 cows, of the 4,568 on test, qualified.

Five cows recorded production in excess of 900 pounds of protein. The best among those five were

Petunia, owned by Steve and Barbara Wilson, with a record of 974 pounds of protein; Jigger and Karma, owned by Glen and Tracey Henry, with respective productions of 971 pounds protein and 901 pounds; cow No.74, owned by Rodney and Brenda Conrad, with 931 pounds protein; and cow No.472, owned by Richard and Frank Crawford, with 929 pounds protein.

Also during the meeting, elected to the organization's board of

directors were Sheldon Harshberger, Ronald Mummah and Mervin Zendt.

Speaker during the event was Patricia Toretti, Pa.DHIA computer program analyst. She talked about the use of laptop computers in the barn by Pa.DHIA technicians, etc. She said that the county's technicians would be receiving lap-top computers for on-farm use and she demonstrated the use of computer generated records and information which would be available on test day.

## Ag Retailers Association Names President

**MANCHESTER, Mo.** — Dr. Paul Kindinger has been selected to be the president and chief executive officer of the Agricultural Retailers Association, according to Tom Hunton, ARA chairman of the board.

In making the announcement, Hunton said, "Dr. Kindinger brings to ARA a broad background of service in agriculture and government. His background includes positions in academia and associations, service as Michigan director of agriculture, and director of public affairs and special assistant to the secretary at

USDA. Currently he is a lobbyist and governmental relations advisor with Kahn, Soares, & Conway in Washington, D.C., specializing in agricultural and environmental issues."

Tom Hunton also said that "the directors of ARA are delighted and enthused to have a person the caliber of Dr. Kindinger lead our association toward its full development." Kindinger will be based at the association headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri.

The Agricultural Retailers Association was officially formed in early December during the first

annual meeting held in Cincinnati, Ohio. The new association resulted from a merger of the former National Fertilizer Solutions

Association and the former National AgriChemical Retailers Association. Kindinger will be the first president/CEO of the newly formed group. ARA is committed to the professional development

and business viability of the plant nutrient and crop protection retail industry, and serves the needs and interests of retail dealers and other facets of the agricultural retail industry.

### Lactation Report

Four hundred and sixty four cows completed records of 305 days or less. Eleven produced more than 850 pounds of protein; 23 produced over 750 pounds of protein; 65 produced over 650 pounds of protein.

Owner/Name	Milk Pounds	Protein Pounds
Glen & Tracey Henry		
Joelyn	30,754	974
Judine	27,102	830
Speerette Farm		
Beth	29,999	908
June	26,836	825
Myron & Mary Gehman		
399	30,318	896
412	30,618	873
Melvin M. Martin		
158	25,302	890
153	28,649	848
109	27,447	826
228	25,500	769
Rick & Jeanette Saner		
Jody	20,450	889
Flo	30,106	875
Becky	26,671	769
Timothy E. Lauver		
Penny	27,105	880
Helen	28,622	858
Diane	23,067	766
John Z. Beiler		
Emma	27,073	874
Larry R. Naylor		
Trot	27,786	863
Eric L. Stine		
Cara	25,840	803
Harshbarger Brothers		
Blacky	21,447	800
Mark L. Zook		
Cornie	25,235	799
Grand Hope Farm		
356	28,464	798
573	26,533	778
Herbert Keiser Jr.		
Q-bert	28,141	794
Raymond E. Kauffman		
Alda	26,482	791
Donald Q. Adams		
Muffin	24,092	780
Harold B. Shearer		
Vivian	24,267	774
Barbara E. Brubaker		
Jo	27,290	772
Harold & Jeff Kauffman		
90Alish	24,815	770
55Marci	24,877	765
David Weaver		
Angela	24,679	769
Steve & Barbara Wilson		
Tink	24,727	768
Russell Dressler		
Kate	25,802	762
Albert & June Gray		
N11	23,900	754

### Somatic Cell Tests

County herds on the PA DHIA somatic cell testing program had an average count of 352,000. Herds with somatic cell counts under 150,000 are: Steve & Barbara Wilson, 66,000; R.E. Shearer and family, 68,000; Shawn Delancy, 76,000; Jeffrey and Donna Pontius, 86,000; Marlene E. Peoples, 100,000; Donald Q. Adams, 122,000; John Z. Beiler, 127,000; John Zimmerman, 130,000; Harold and Jeff Kauffman, 141,000; and Fred Shoop, 149,000.

## Pioneer: Supplies Of Seed Corn 'Very Good'

**DES MOINES, Iowa** — A leading U.S. seed corn marketer has excellent hybrid seed supplies in most maturities for 1993, according to the company's corn product manager.

Bob Heimbaugh said Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., is prepared to meet corn growers' seed needs for 1993 planting.

Demand for Pioneer® brand hybrids during the past two years had reduced carryover inventories going into last season, so the company significantly increased seed production acreage in 1992, Heimbaugh said. The increased acreage, along with good seed yields, produced very good to excellent inventories in most maturities.

"We expect especially great demand for hybrids in the 90 CRM and 105 CRM ranges because of their excellent yield and drydown this year," Heimbaugh said. "We encourage corn growers to make early contact with their sales representatives so they can discuss supply and plan their orders. That will help ensure seed is available when and where it is needed."

Heimbaugh expects demand to remain strong because Pioneer hybrids performed well for farmers during the 1992 season.

"Through mid-December, U.S. corn growers had completed just over 159,000 comparisons between Pioneer and competitive hybrids," he said. "Our hybrids had a 7.5 bushel per acre yield advantage and were 1.4 percent drier at harvest than competitive products."

The maturity of many hybrids was slowed by 1992's cool, wet summer, so some growers may be re-evaluating their use of full-sca-

son hybrids. Heimbaugh cautions corn growers not to overreact to the past season's weather conditions, but said the ample seed supplies should enable farmers to make some maturity adjustments.

Heimbaugh said continued low interest rates offer farmers an opportunity to get extra mileage from preseason discounts offered by many input suppliers.

The prime interest rate is 6 percent, down a half-point from this time a year ago, and rates for short-term loans many farmers use to finance operations were in the 8.5-10 percent range this week.

Suppliers of seeds, crop protection chemicals, and other inputs typically offer discounts for cash purchases made in advance of planting season. With the relative-

ly low interest rates, it may make sense to borrow operating funds to take advantage of the discounts.

"For example, we have a three-tier discount for cash purchases of seed: 7 percent through January 4, 5 percent through February 13, and 2 percent through April 30," Heimbaugh said.

"If you borrow 9.5 percent operating money now for seed you plant in late April or May, the actual cost for the four months you use the money is 3.17 percent," he said. "With a 7 percent discount for paying cash, the return is better than 2-1."

Heimbaugh advised farmers to work with their lenders to assess the option of borrowing to take advantage of the discounts.

## Local Co-Op Board Reorganizes

**YORK (York Co.)** — York Farm Credit, ACA, board of directors reorganized due to the vacant position left by the resignation of Ralph H. McGregor, chairman, at their recent meeting.

Lester E. Martin was elected chairman and Kenneth C. Ketterer was elected vice chairman. Paul W. McPherson was elected to serve on the executive committee with Martin and Ketterer.

Martin operates a 270-acre dairy farm, "Pleasant Valley Jerseys," consisting of 248 cows and 180 heifers, in Franklin County. Prior to Martin's election as chairman, he served as vice chairman of the board since 1991. Ketterer owns and operates a beef, hog, and vegetable operation in Cumberland County. McPherson owns and operates "Maple Lawn Farms, Inc.," a fruit and grain production operation in York County.

McGregor resigned from the board, after serving since 1981, to devote more time to his farming operations. His position on the board will remain vacant until the next stockholders annual meeting in the spring. The other members of the board are Clifford L. Hawbaker, Franklin County; Lawrence R. Cauffman, Perry County; David F. Kuhn, Adams County; Dale R. King, Adams County; and Paul B. Whipple, outside director.