

Dairymen's Association Give Awards, Hear History

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HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)—"History is for learning, and we have recycled history many times in the dairy industry," said Donald Ace, professor emeritus, Dairy and Animal Science Dept., Penn State University. "But I question sometimes how much we have learned."

Ace was the featured speaker at the 122nd annual meeting and banquet of the Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association Monday evening in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Farm Show. He traced the history of the association back to 1871 when a group of dairymen in Crawford County formed an organization "to encourage dairy farming in the state and improve the industry and protect it from fraudulent products."

Over the years the Dairymen's Association joined dairymen with distributors and manufacturers into a united cause, but in more recent years the members have become dairy farmers in a service type role in the industry.

Sue Bashore, executive secretary, reported that the organization continues to support young people in 4-H, FFA and in collegiate activities. And among other projects, they have supported the Pennsylvania Foundation For Better Living. This foundation educates teachers in the public and private school so they can include farm information in their regular classroom presentations. On Tuesday morning at the Farm Show the Dairymen's Association presented a check to this foundation. (See side story this issue.)

Walter Pecchaika, deputy secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, said animal health would receive attention over the

next few years and announced a program to combine the Summerdale lab, the veterinary science facility at Penn State, and the New Bolton Center at the University of Pennsylvania into a common data base for computer networking to be accessed through a 900 number system.

Dr. Lamartine Hood, dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences at Penn State, said the financial resources at the college were "restrained" as everywhere else. He noted that 63 percent of the funds for the college come from state and federal appropriations. But on a bright note, he said the increased enrollment in the Dairy and Animal Science department showed that young people had become more aware of the opportunities in the dairy industry and this "bodes well for the future of the dairy industry in Pennsylvania," he said.

Crystal Schweighofer, state dairy princess, said dairymen face many problems, but the fact that they ranked high in the nation in production and provided 56,000 jobs in Pennsylvania showed that they were successful and were "doing a great job."

Several awards were presented at the meeting. The winner of the PA Dairymen's Extension Award this year is Eugene W. Schurman of Indiana County. Gene is the agricultural agent for Indiana County and also assists with work in nearby counties.

Gene was born in Clymer, New York and graduated from Cornell University in 1972 with a degree in Dairy Science. He obtained a Master of Science degree in Dairy from Penn State in 1974 and then started work with the Extension Service in Franklin County. He moved to Indiana County in 1977 and taught

vocational agriculture for several years. In 1982, Gene returned to Extension and became an agricultural agent with dairy responsibility for Indiana County.

Gene has set a high standard for others to match. He was a member of the Penn State Milker School teaching team from 1982 to 1985. He was a committee member and twice chairman of the Southwest Regional Dairy Day committee from 1983 to 1990. He has been on the State Dairy Task Force committee, the 4-H Dairy Project Evaluation committee, the PA Dairy Termination Program team, the PA Dairy Farm of Distinction committee and both the All-American and Farm Show Dairy committees.

His on-going activities are with the 4-H Dairy Overnighter School; county and regional participation in the DHIA educational program, nutrition schools, dairy cattle breeding clinics, calf and heifer management schools, reproductive management schools, county and regional 4-H dairy shows and on-farm trouble shooting. He also schedules the Forage Testing Van to his area, develops rations for dairy herds, generates a regular county newsletter and helps other agents with milking systems and barn ventilation evaluations. As a fellow agent put it - no request for help is turned down.

Gene has received several awards including being the winner of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents (NACAA) "Search for Excellence" award in 1987. Also in 1987, Gene received the Pennsylvania County Agents Achievement award. He was a 1989 national winner in the 4-H Recognition program for his tractor safety program. In 1992 he was chosen as Dairy Promoter of the year by the PA Dairy Promotion Board.

Gene and his wife Carol are an Extension team in Indiana County and have done an outstanding job with the 4-H and adult agriculture programs. Gene has been a "main man" at both the PA All-American and Farm Show dairy shows. Gene has been chairman of both Holstein shows since 1983. He also helps Carol with the Dairy Goat show at Farm Show where they start work at 5 a.m. and oversee the checking in and showing of over 200 animals in a single day.

The Charles E. Cowan Award



Harold and Leona Crider and family of Chambersburg in Franklin County received the Charles E. Cowan Award from the Dairymen's Association. In the photo, left to right, front, Eileen Flenner, Leona, Harold, Marion Jones and Steven Jones. Back, Stan Flenner, Dawn Crider, Rodney Crelder, Rhoda Munch, Aldean Crider, Roger Crider and Katy Crider.



Donald Ace signs his book on the "History and Perspective of the Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association, 1871-1992." Ace was the featured speaker on this subject at the annual meeting.



Dairymen's Extension Award. President David Smith (left) presents award to Eugene and Carol Schurman.



Marie Robinson, left, and Beverly Minor accepted recognition for the dedication of the 1993 yearbook to their late husband and father Clyde S. Robinson.

was established in memory of a man who was longtime secretary and a leader of the Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association. It recognizes dairy farmers who have made major contributions to the state's largest agricultural industry. Harold Crider of Chambersburg in Franklin County is the 1993 recipient of the Charles Cowan Award.

Harold and his wife Leona are in partnership with twin sons Roger and Rodney at Antrim Spring Farms. Harold has bred over 30 EX cows and currently have a BAA of 107.2%. The Criders were early adapters of embryo transfer technology and currently use the technology heavily in their breeding, selection and marketing program.

Harold is very active in Holstein, DHIA and Dairy Promotion in Franklin County as well as regional and state levels.

Harold was a director of the Franklin County Holstein Club for 25 years having served as president and currently as secretary-treasurer. Harold served in the position of state director for 10 years. Harold has also served as delegate to the National Holstein Convention 15 times.

Antrim Spring Farm has been on DHIA for over 30 years. Harold has served as a county director for

18 years and president. Harold also served on the state DHIA board for 4 years and also served that organization as secretary-treasurer.

Harold has served on the Franklin County Dairy Promotion Committee and also served as a director for the Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association for more than four terms. Harold has also served on the advisory committee to the Penn State Veterinary Science Department.

Harold's community activities are just as involved as those related to agriculture. He has served as a school board member for the Greencastle-Antrim School Board, a charter member of the Kauffman Ruritan Club and a very big supporter of 4-H activities in the county.

Harold is involved with the 100 voice Mercersburg Area Community Chorus which performs classical music and is a member of the Cedar Grove Mennonite Church and music committee.

Harold and his wife Leona are the parents of five children: Rodney and Roger who are in partnership at Antrim Spring, Eileen, Marianne and Don.

The Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association dedicated the 1993 YEARBOOK to the memory of Clyde Robison.