

Large, Small Animal Composting At Meeting, Tour

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Disposing of mortality has become a serious problem for many producers of both small and large animals.

Incineration and rendering have become expensive, and burial poses environmental problems. Composting on the farm is an idea which can solve the mortality disposal problem for many farmers.

A meeting on this topic will be

held on Thursday morning, March 11, in the basement meeting room at the Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster.

Dr. Dennis Murphy from the poultry science department at the University of Maryland, a pioneer of the dead bird composting technique, will be the main speaker. Murphy will discuss construction of a dead bird composting unit, small scale composting units, and

whole flock composting after depopulation. His recent work composting swine, sheep, and cattle mortality will also be discussed.

Dr. John Schwartz with Penn State extension in Lancaster County will discuss his recent experience with whole flock composting in Pennsylvania.

Registration, which begins at 8:30 a.m., costs \$6. Those attend-

ing the meeting will board a bus at 10:30 p.m. for a field trip to a Lancaster County farm where poultry and swine mortality are being composted. The bus will return to the Farm and Home Center by 12:30 p.m.

To register, contact Leon Reasler, Penn State extension at (717) 394-6851.

At the present time, the downs-

tairs meeting room of the Farm and Home Center is accessible only by stairs. If you use a wheelchair or crutches or are unable to use stairs and you want to attend a meeting scheduled for this room, contact Leon Reasler at least five working days prior to the scheduled program to arrange for alternative meeting site.

Holstein Association Boasts Breed's Qualities

TOM LAWLOR
Director of Research
Holstein Association of America

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. — Over the years, the Holstein breed has become the predominant dairy breed in the U.S. This was accomplished by providing farmers with the most profitable cow available.

Today over 90 percent of U.S. dairy cows are Holsteins. The Holstein cow is famous for her innate genetic ability to produce high volumes of nutritious milk.

Today's Holstein breeders are just as committed to improving the Holstein cow as the generations of breeders before them. Based on January 1993 U.S.

Department of Agriculture information, the Holstein breed is outpacing all other breeds in genetic improvement.

The data shows the expectant average Predicted Transmitting Ability (PTA) of calves to be born in 1994 resulting from 1993 semen purchases.

Holsteins are clearly the protein

breed of the future. The PTAs of the 1994 calves are compared to an average cow of each breed born in 1985.

The PTA represents one half of the genetic merit of the animal. Therefore the Holstein calves born in 1994 are expected to produce 104 pounds of protein more than the Holstein cows born in 1985.

The economic index Milk-Fat-Protein Dollars (MFP\$) is based upon the average U.S. milk price in 1992 minus the average hauling, assessments and promotion charges. The average Holstein calf born in 1994 is expected to produce \$416 more income per lactation than those cows born in 1985.

One of the reasons that the Holsteins are continuing to pull away from the rest of the breeds is due to the large selection population.

If we look at available data we see that the selective Holstein breeder can choose from among 79 bulls with a MFP\$ over \$260 whereas no Jersey bull meets this requirement.

The continual genetic improvement of the Holstein breed assures that it will continue to grow in importance in providing nutritious dairy products for generations to come.

Table I Expectant Average PTAs Calves Born 1994

Breed	PTA protein (lb)	PTA MFP\$ (\$)
Holstein	52	208
Jersey	40	162
Guernsey	31	127
Milking Shorthorn	30	100
Ayrshire	21	84
Brown Swiss	22	82

Source: USDA, based on current estimates of trend within each breed. MFP\$ = \$.04895 (PTA milk) + \$.79 (PTA fat) + \$1.45 (PTA protein)

Table II No. Active AI Bulls Evaluated January 1993 By PTA Range and Breed

MFP\$	Holsteins	Jerseys
> 260	79	0
220 - 259	167	8
180 - 219	190	24
140 - 179	67	27
100 - 139	24	3
< 100	18	3

Source: USDA

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