

Lancaster Farming

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Blizzard Paralyzes State, Ag Losses Unknown



While the Blizzard of '93 shut down roads and highways for automobiles throughout the East, it opened up miles of traveling range for sleighs in Lebanon County. At the reigns, Kenneth Sandoe, a Lebanon County attorney and owner of this pair of Belgian draft horses, Bessie, nearest, and Bell, drives an Amish neighbor's sleigh, while his child-

ren and the children of Kenneth and Janet Winebark ride in the back. Sandoe and Winebark and friends broke out the sleigh and horses after spending two days using their snow removal equipment to help dig out neighboring dairy farmers.

Photo by Vern Achenbach Jr.

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Today may be the first day of spring, but that means little to the many across the state still recovering from last weekend's blizzard.

It will be some time until state agriculture officials know the extent of financial loss suffered by the state's agricultural industry because of last weekend's blizzard. But even when they do find out, disaster relief will probably not be forthcoming.

Despite early estimates by the major dairy cooperatives and related farm-service businesses that a number of producers were forced to dump several days of milk, no one in the industry had a fix on the volume of milk lost.

Additionally, reports from the field are that many haulers faced topped-out tanks once they were able to get to the farm, and some had difficulty getting full tankers to processing plants.

Although state Gov. Robert Casey had declared a state of emergency for the state that continued by presstime, losses from dumping milk does not officially fall within the same context as crop loss because of drought, flooding, or other wide-spread natural disaster, according to state officials.

Therefore, those producers who were forced to dump milk will

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Maryland Holstein Convention Held In Spite Of Snow, Sale Postponed

EVA MARTIN

Maryland Correspondent

GRANTSVILLE, Md. — The annual convention of the Maryland Holstein Association was held this week in the beautiful snowy mountains of Garrett County, home of the local host association.

In his welcoming remarks, Oren Bender, state president and well known Garrett County Holstein breeder, encouraged everyone to enjoy the beautiful snow and be optimistic about the forecasted blizzard.

"As your host, we (the Garrett County Holstein Breeders) promise to get everyone out of the county, but from then on you are on your own," he said, joking.

Several families, who did not heed the forecast, were stranded in the county for several days.

The convention sale was post-

poned due to impassable roads and was rescheduled for April 15.

Donna Myers, chairman of the Nominating Committee, conducted the election of new officers.

Oren Bender, from Accident, is to serve as president, Charles Iager, from Fulton, was elected vice president, and Anita Hill, of Emmitsburg, is to serve as secretary treasurer.

New directors elected were Cam Davis, Scott Hood, Kevin Leverton, Arthur Rhoderick, and Harold Smith.

Progressive Breeder Registry Awards for 1992 were presented by Thomas Dum, consultant from the National Holstein Association.

Maryland Holstein breeders who received this award and the number of years they qualified were announced. Recognized were Maple Lawn Farms, Inc., Ful-

ton, 25 years; Marlin Hoff, New Windsor, 12 years; Joseph A. Schwartzbeck, Union Bridge, 9 years; University of Maryland, Ellicott City, 7 years; My Lady's Manor Farm, Inc., Monkton, 7 years; Jason M. & Donna G. Myers, New Windsor, 6 years; Dennis E. Savage, Keymar, 3 years; Savage-Leigh Farm, Knoxville, 3 years; Wayne E. Schrock, Grantsville, 3 years; Roy W. Crow, Kennedyville, 2 years; Gary L. & Brenda Derr, Mt. Airy, 1 year; Michael R. & Anita L. Haines, Taneytown, 1 year; Stewart E. Walker & Sons, Damascus, 1 year.

1992 Progressive Genetics Herd Award winners were Allen Brothers, Jefferson, 2 years; Del-Myr Farm, Westminster, 2 years; D. Richard Flickinger, Union

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Because the "Blizzard of '93" caused problems to get milk tank trucks into farm lanes, hundreds of farmers had to dump milk because their bulk tanks overflowed. Art Erdman, truck driver for Atlantic Dairy, pulls a milk sample at an Amish farm in Lancaster County. Please see photo story on Pages A-34 & A-35.

Conservation Compliance, No-Till Work Hand In Hand

ANDY ANDREWS

Lancaster Farming Staff

GRATZ (Dauphin Co.) — Farmers in the Mahantango Valley and other hilly regions, where conservation compliance through reducing soil erosion is critical but

often difficult, face a dilemma: no-till or not to no-till?

While conventional tillage leaves little soil residue (and soil residue is critical to preventing erosion), no-till may be the answer. No-till may save in equip-

ment costs and time, and help save the soil — but in order to be used, farmers may have to spend a little more in seed costs while considering other intensive management practices new to them.

That's the message many of the

100 farmers heard at the Tri-County Agronomy School at the Gratz Fire Hall on Wednesday. They braved the rain and snow mix, and roads still being plowed from the blizzard of '93, to attend the conference, which focused on

the effectiveness of alternative tillage considerations, including herbicide and nutrient management in conservation practices.

Dependent on site

Conservation compliance is

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