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Penn State Dairy Expo Set Today

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — The 68th Penn State Dairy Expo will be held today at the Ag Arena beginning at 8 a.m.

The show will begin with the amateur showman, followed by the intermediate and professional showman. The show will conclude about 3 p.m. with the overall championship classes. Special events competition will begin about noon with milk chugging, celebrity milking, and calf dressing. The third annual alumni showmanship contest will begin about 12:45 p.m. and is open to all Penn State alumni.

The Show Manager for the 68th Dairy Expo is Terri Packard, senior from Troy. She is assisted by Andy Foster, junior from Petersburg, Assistant Show Manager. Overall Expo Chairman is

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Mark A. Wolfskill, conservation farmer of the year for 1992, and his wife, Nancy, take a morning break between chores to talk about their Heidelberg Township farm. The youngster with them is grandson, Nathan.

Robesonia Farmer Wins Berks Conservation Award

CONNIE LEINBACH
Berks Co. Correspondent
ROBESONIA (Berks Co.) — Mark A. Wolfskill doesn't like squares. At least not for his crop fields.

Give him a curving contour strip any day. Not just because of its natural beauty, but the way this type of cultivating conserves the soil and water.

It's a way of farming Wolfskill has been doing for so long that it's just second nature to him. Besides, it's logical.

"Strip cropping holds the soil," he said.

Wolfskill, of Robesonia R.D. 1, was named Outstanding Conservation Farmer of 1992 by the Berks County Conservation District.

He and his sons, Mark F., Douglas M., and David M., grow corn, soybeans, and hay on 740 acres that they own and rent. The acreage, which includes nine

farms, supports 220 dairy animals and 230 beef cattle.

Since 1969, when he signed up as a cooperator with the district, he has practiced pasture management, no-till, and minimum-tillage on his contour strips.

Through the years, the Conservation District has helped him farm in an environmentally conscious manner by designing a conservation plan for his farm.

Such plans may involve installing drain tiles under the ground to help eliminate wet spots and planting grass in waterways to keep the soil from washing away.

He points to the pasture beside his house. It, along with an adjacent cornfield, is on a slope. But the drainage area is completely covered with grass. No standing water here.

The extra work involved in cultivating with the environment in

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Sniders Take Table Of Trophies

LINDA WILLIAMS
Bedford Co. Correspondent
BEDFORD (Bedford Co.) — Sniders Homestead and its various Guernsey owners took home a tableful of trophies at the 62nd annual awards banquet held recently.

The George W. Snyder Award and the Sewickley Trophy both went to Aaron Gable of Sniders Homestead. Aaron had the champion at the Pennsylvania Jr. Dairy Show and was the champion of Youth Show at the 1993 Pennsylvania Farm Show.

The Snider-Homestead Farm was also granted the John Brachman Award for having the grand champion at the 1993 Pennsylvania Farm Show.

Production awards were as follows: high herd for milk and protein in 1992, Axel Linde and Millie Widmann for 56 cows with 17,099 pounds of milk, 766 fat, and 602 protein.

Rutter Brothers took the high herd for fat in 1992 award. They have 50 cows, 16,548 pounds of milk, 575 protein, and 768 fat.

Top cow for milk and protein in 1992 was the Trotacre Fayette Loretta, 28,235 pounds of milk, 984 fat, and 874 protein.

The top cow for fat in 1992 was Sunnybend Shannon Telestar owned by Thomas Boyer. Her record was 18,095 pounds of milk, 666 protein, and 1,082 fat.

All-Pennsylvania awards went

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Aaron Gable, left, receives award from Guernsey President John Morrow.

Rodgers Named National Grassland Council President

DES MOINES, Iowa — John Reed Rodgers, a dairy farmer from Belleville, was named president of the American Forage and Grassland Council (AFGC), a 7,000 member organization dedicated to the profitable production and sustainable utilization of quality forage and grasslands. AFGC has affiliate councils in 32 states and provinces and is truly a North

American organization. One of the affiliates is the Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council, of which Rodgers is a charter member.

Rodgers is the first producer to head the 50-year-old council, which is comprised of members from agricultural industry, public service and producers. The common thread is forages and grass-

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John Rodgers

ADC Instructs Producers No BST ... For Now

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
SOUTHAMPTON (Bucks Co.) — The largest dairy marketing cooperative in Pennsylvania has issued a statement to its members this week advising them not to use injectable, supplemental bovine somatotropin (BST), until further notice.

The reason: marketing battles, skittish consumers and threats of perpetuating fears of BST by anti-beef and anti-biotechnology activists.

According to Dr. Paul Hand, general manager of the Atlantic Dairy Cooperative, an advisory letter was mailed out April 16 and arrived in the hands of members this past week to inform them of

the moratorium on using the supplemental drug because one of ADC's biggest milk buyers, Johanna Farms, has claimed it will be "BGH-free," just like its main competitor, Farmland Dairies.

Farmland Dairies, run by Marc Goldman, was one of the first processors to allow its name to be used by anti-beef and anti-biotechnologist Jeremy Rifkin in his call to ban BST by listing and publicizing all businesses which Rifkin considers "safe."

Rifkin allegedly mailed letters to major dairy processors and chain restaurants within the past year outlining his plan to publicize the names of those who fail to join him. Those who fail to join would be listed as places to avoid and

treat with suspicion.

ADC is the largest dairy cooperative in Pennsylvania and ninth in the nation, marketing about 3.5 billion pounds of milk per year, which is about a third of the Pennsylvania production.

Although every producer and processor in the world could claim to be "BGH-free" there is no way to tell, because there is no such thing, Hand said the position that the cooperative is taking is out of consideration for the milk to be sold.

He said that until the consumer understands that there is no danger in the milk, the cooperative has decided to direct its members not to ship milk that was derived from BST-injected cows.

Of course, Hand said he realized that there is no way the cooperative can know how the milk being shipped was produced.

Nevertheless, the cooperative is taking the position, he said, because it is the expedient thing to do for the membership.

"We had discussed this among the members of Pennmarva (Pennsylvania-Maryland-Virginia) to see if we could arrive at a similar position among all the cooperatives — both the major cooperatives and the smaller ones," Hand said.

"We felt that (we would take this position), since . . . the processors had surveyed the consumers and found that there was resis-

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