

## Dairyalea 2000: Nutrient Management For New York

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Nutrient management will continue to be one of the most important issues facing dairy farmers in the coming years and must be made an industry priority, concluded Dairyalea 2000, an advisory task force of Dairyalea Cooperative Inc.

At a recent meeting at the Cooperative's headquarters in

Syracuse, N.Y., the select group of Dairyalea members listened to a presentation by Dr. Les Lanyon of Pennsylvania State University, who has been involved in soil fertility and water quality improvement projects in Pennsylvania. In addition, the task force reviewed a comprehensive video tape on anaerobic technology that can

handle manure in an environmentally sound way and heard a description of a proposed agribusiness park in Pennsylvania that would recycle 85 percent of its wastes.

"Dairyalea 2000, which serves our Cooperative in an advisory capacity as a 'think tank,' has focused its attention on the crucial

issue of nutrient management," reported Dairyalea President Clyde Rutherford. "The group realizes that issues dealing with the environment are not going to go away, and that they are not solely the problem of farmers with large dairy operations. This is an industry-wide concern.

"Regulators, legislators and farmers should address the issue of nutrient management with flexibility," added Rutherford. "And Dairyalea 2000 stressed that dairy farmers must and should get involved — or they will be left at the gate by environmental groups pushing their own agendas."

Suggestions made by Dairyalea 2000 included:

- contacting New York State Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets Richard McGuire about providing an open forum on nutrient management at the Agriculture and Technology Conference that has been proposed for Fall 1993;
- contacting New York's Joint Legislative Commission on Dairy Industry Development to initiate a study on how increased environmental regulations will affect the dairy farm economy in New York.

- continuing to work with legislators in Pennsylvania on pending nutrient management legislation;
- working with appropriate authorities throughout the Northeast to ensure interstate coordination of nutrient management programs; and

- developing incentives to attract more trained specialists to work with dairy farmers on nutrient management, while investigating the possibility of dairy farmers funding related research projects and salaries at Cornell and Pennsylvania State Universities.

During the task force's meeting, Dr. Lanyon stressed that sound nutrient management involves optimizing crop yields through use of animal manure,

while protecting the environment. He suggested that farmers planning to use animal manure on their fields develop and follow a written manure management plan that makes sense for their particular operation. Management is the key, according to Dr. Lanyon, who told the group that nutrient management plans that incorporate certain practices for crop production and water quality protection — but are not designed for farm productivity and profitability — are misguided efforts.

Dr. Lanyon added that, in his view, it is best for farmers to develop nutrient management proposals voluntarily, and perhaps with government incentives, rather than in response to legislation and regulation developed with little agricultural input.

Dairyalea 2000 members also discussed the "whole farm planning approach" to nutrient management, which includes certain incentives, that is being attempted in the Delaware/Catskill watershed area that provides water for New York City. This approach was developed jointly by area farmers and agribusinesses, local government, the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection. The approach allows individual farmers to develop and implement management practices best suited to the conditions of their farms.

Dairyalea 2000 was formed at Dairyalea's Annual Meeting in October 1992 to identify important issues that the Cooperative should be addressing as it prepares for the next century.

Dairyalea, a Syracuse-based dairy cooperative with more than 2,600 farmer members throughout the Northeast, markets approximately 2.5 billion pounds of milk annually. Dairyalea participates and is invested in a milk marketing network stretching from Maine to Maryland to Ohio.

## Growers Could Be Stung By Honey Bee Shortage

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Unfavorable weather conditions and deadly parasites have teamed up to cause a potentially critical shortage of honey bees in Pennsylvania. And that could spell trouble for apple and vegetable growers, said a Penn State bee specialist.

"Pennsylvania apples are about 95 percent dependent on bee pollination," said Maryann Tomasko, entomology extension associate in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

"This winter, some large beekeepers lost 50 to 75 percent of their colonies," Tomasko said. "Some smaller beekeepers were wiped out. Overall, 50 percent or more of the honey bees in Pennsylvania probably were lost."

Nationwide, \$10 billion worth of crops are pollinated by honey bees. Bee pollination plays a part in the production of about one-third of the typical American diet.

"Last year's wet, cool summer

led to a poor fall nectar flow," said Tomasko. "The bees use the fall nectar to make honey that sustains a colony through the winter. Because of the long, snowy winter and the late arrival of spring weather, some colonies simply starved."

The poor weather, reduced honey supply, and recently introduced parasitic mites combined to cause higher than normal winter losses of bees.

Honey bee tracheal mites entered the United States in 1984. Varroa mites were first found in this country in 1987. Since their introduction, both mites have spread rapidly and have caused serious damage to the beekeeping industry in Pennsylvania and elsewhere.

Because the parasites are not native to North America, domestic honey bees have little resistance to the mites. So far, chemical controls have been only moderately

effective, in part because the mites quickly develop resistance to miticides.

Researchers are looking for ways to breed native bees for mite resistance or introduce resistant species from other countries. Until that research bears fruit, growers who rely on rented honey bees for crop pollination might experience a shortage.

"Some local beekeepers will have trouble fulfilling existing contracts," said Tomasko. "Beekeepers with colonies to rent should have little trouble finding interested growers."


If dry, sunny weather prevails during the pollination period, wild honey bees and some solitary bee species will perform much of the needed pollination. But Tomasko said wild bee populations also have been reduced by mites, as well as by pesticide use and habitat destruction.

With bee colonies dying and the cost of chemical treatment to fight mites rising, growers could face higher pollination fees charged by beekeepers. "If that happens," said Tomasko, "consumers might pay more for fresh fruits and vegetables."

For more information or a list of commercial beekeepers in Pennsylvania, contact the nearest county office of Penn State Cooperative Extension.

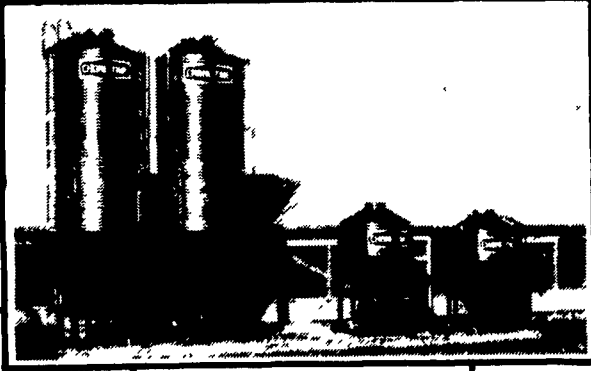
## June is Dairy Month

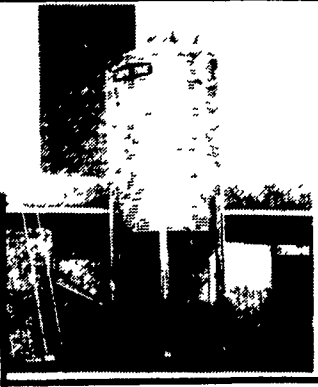
CHORE-TIME **BINS AND AUGERS**




**Take 'em Down!**

**We Stock Truckloads Of Chore-Time Bins & Miles Of Chore-Time FLEX-AUGER**






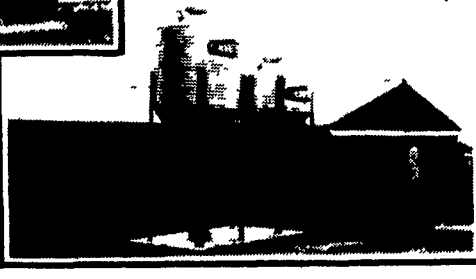
**Put 'em Up!**




**We Will Assemble & Deliver Bins To Your Farm**

**Bins... Large Or Small**

**Authorized**  
  
**Master Distributor**



**Custom Applications**



**Northeast Agri Systems, Inc.**

FLYWAY BUSINESS PARK  
139 A West Airport Rd.  
Lititz, PA 17543

(717) 569-2702 **1-800-673-2580**

**FOR FREE ESTIMATES CALL OUR TOLL-FREE CUSTOMER SERVICE NUMBER:**

**1-800-673-2580**

**STORE HOURS**  
Mon.-Fri.  
7:30-4:30  
Sat. 8:00-Noon

BUY, SELL, TRADE OR RENT THROUGH THE **CLASSIFIED ADS**

**4 BUILDINGS AND SUPPLIES**

64'x76' Truss roof with 20 trusses 76' long, best offer. Amos Zook, 320 Catsback Road, Ephrata, PA.

**ABC SEAMLESS SIDING.** Exclusive area dealer. Free estimates. 717-626-2032 or 653-6178.

Allied Steel Buildings, Commercial, Industrial, Agricultural. Building YOUR Business is OUR Business. A.S. HOOVER INC. 3125 Manor Road, Coatesville, PA 19320 1-800-942-2591; 215-942-2591.

Antique building materials, beams, wide pine boards, flooring, doors, etc. 717/249-2304

**BARN FOR SALE:** Hand hewn beams. Remove from property. 215/264-3246.

Bank barn to be removed for material, good logs, planks and siding. Biglerville, Adams Co., PA area. 717-624-4213 8-4PM. Must be gone by 7/1/93.

Barn 106x50 oak beams, board batten siding, metal roof. You dismantle, no clean-up. Must go June! \$3,000. Newark, DE (302)994-6467.

Beautiful Appalachian Red Aromatic Cedar. Available in Boards Up To 24" Wide, 8ft. Long. Cut to Your Dimensions. K.T. Nilsson P.O.Box 512, Fairfield, PA 17320.

Between 800 and 900 running feet of oak fence including boards and posts, \$3/ft. (717)898-8224 or 299-5821

Plastic Sheets up to 1/4" Thick, Glass Board Sheets and Rolls, Fiberglass Roofing "B" Grade Material. Glenn Baidler, Freeburg, PA, Snyder County. (717)539-8993.

Buying Old Building Lumber, Siding, Doors, Etc We demolish. Call Woody 215/983-3461.

Chain Link Fence, new, slightly imperfect, heavy 9-gauge galvanized. 3'-\$1.10/ft, 4'-\$1.25/ft, 5'-\$1.55/ft, 6'-\$1.65/ft, 7'-\$1.85/ft, 8'-\$1.95/ft. Call 717/822-7820, if no answer leave message.

Re-sawn heart pine boards, 2000', 8-16" wide; 22' antique log addition. 717/374-7122.

Cramer's Discount Roofing, lowest prices in 3 states. See display ad section 4. (717)567-6782.

FLOORING- New kiln dried T&G, 2x8 Y.P. Can deliver. NOAH SHIRK SAWMILL 717-354-0192.