

# Potential Judges, Practicing Breeders Find Benefit From Conference

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Lancaster Farming Staff  
**NORTH LEBANON** (Lebanon Co.) — The Pennsylvania Purebred Dairy Cattle Association (PDCA) recently held its annual judging conference in Lebanon County, with participants reviewing 13 full classes of different breeds of cattle in two days.

Ken Raney, secretary-treasurer of the PDCA, said that, of the 35 participants at this year's conference, many are seeking inclusion on a list of PDCA board-recommended cattle judges. Many of the local-level shows draw upon such lists in order to select judges for county fairs and other local shows, he said.

Others who attend the conference gain a better understanding of cattle evaluation and can benefit from better being able to evaluate their own cattle.

Conference official was Jason Myers, from New Windsor, Md. The way the conference works is that everyone scores the animals and, those who wish to, give reasons. In effect, everyone is competing against the official.

Lebanon County is known for being home to top-quality dairy cattle herds of several breeds. While a complete list of all those who supported the conference by cleaning and clipping and hauling some of the best of their herds to provide judging classes is unavailable, Raney said all are to be commended for their help.

Among those were a number of Holstein breeders, such as Loving-Meadows Holsteins, Eugene and Kathleen Martin, Richard Krall, etc.; suppliers of Brown Swiss were Gary Lee Mase, Bruce Heilinger, and Mike Kunkle; Ayrshires were provided by Dale and Pattie Maulfair; and Guernsey, Robert and David Smith.

Raney said anyone else not mentioned should not feel slighted, for their effort was very much appreciated.

The two-day event began at the Lebanon Area Fairgrounds with a review of Brown Swiss and some Holsteins. And despite the high humidity and official heat warning in effect, two of the pole-barns used for showing at the fairgrounds provided adequate protection and comfort. Many participants dressed for the heat, also.

While some people are unfamiliar with the PDCA judging conference, the fact that it occurs about the same time of the year at the Pa. Holstein Association's Junior Judging Schools does not mean it is designed specifically toward youth.

In fact, according to Raney, it is definitely designed toward adults, those beyond 4-H and FFA, for a more intensive judging experience.

The PHA Junior Dairy Judging Schools are designed for youth, with more explanation, a detailed review of basics and support for those shy about speaking up and



Garrett Mase leads one of his family's Brown Swiss around the show ring, while John Foster III, wearing a white cap, jots down his score. In the foreground is Alan Hostetter, also well known among the Holstein cattle breeders. Behind Foster is Duane Nolt.

giving reasons.

The PDCA conference on the other hand, wastes no time in getting down to judging and attracts well-known breeders and judges from around the state. However, for advanced youth and for the average cattle breeder, the experience is fulfilling, Raney said.

"It is geared toward adults," Raney said, "toward (those) trying to get on the approved (judges) list, or trying to improve on their evaluation skills."

All the scores from participants are recorded, tabulated, and everybody gets their scores sent back to them. In January of each year, the PDCA Board of Directors meets and reviews scores and applications for inclusion on its list of approved judges.

Raney said the conference was a success, but more people could be accommodated in the future.

"Overall, Lebanon did a tremendous job in hosting the school," Raney said. "Lebanon County breeders did a fantastic job, from the standpoint of supplying cattle and good classes. They were excellent classes the whole way through."

For more information on the school, call Raney at (814) 234-0364.



Placing cattle and giving reasons at the Purebred Dairy Cattle Association Judging Conference is a shared experience — everyone has an opinion, and most give it.



Ken Raney moves to check on the straightness of the show line while conference participants rub chins and contemplate the characteristics of the Brown Swiss breed.

## Association Presents Clean Water Awards

**ALTOONA** (Blair Co.) — Farmers from Blair, Union, and York counties received the Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay Clean Water Farm Awards at the quarterly conference of the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) on July 22.

The awards, sponsored jointly by Pennsylvania's Department of Agriculture and the Department of Environmental Resources, recognize farm operations that excel in water quality protection.

Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Boyd Wolff, and Arthur David, secretary of the Department of Environmental Resources, presented this year's three recipients:

- In Blair County, near Martinsburg, the 163-acre farm of Randall and Karen Huntsman, a dairy operation within the Clover Creek Watershed.
- In Union County, near Mifflinburg, the dairy of Mark and Sue Mapes, who farm 161 acres.
- In York County, close to Dillsburg, a 95-acre dairy that has recently been converted to a beef operation owned by Rolla and Esther Lehman.

These farmers have worked diligently to install and maintain farming practices that protect their land from soil erosion and prevent excess nitrogen and phosphorus from entering their local streams and underground water supplies. Applications of manure, fertilizers, and pesticides are controlled

and managed so that timely and exact amounts are used, curtailing the amount of runoff carrying excess nutrients and pesticides into our water sources. These practices are implemented without sacrificing peak production.

The three farmers received a large blue and white "Clean Water Farm Award" sign as evidence that Pennsylvania's agricultural community is working to protect and conserve our precious soil and water resources.

In addition, the farmers will visit the Chesapeake Bay on a skip-jack formerly used for oystering to see first-hand how their water conservation efforts are helping to restore the Bay.

There are 67 counties in Pennsylvania. Slightly over half are located within the Susquehanna River basin, which supplies 50 percent of the fresh water running into the Chesapeake Bay. This year's award recipients were nominated by their county conservation districts who were among representatives from all over the state gathering to honor them at their regular PACD quarterly business conference and banquet.

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