

# Moldavia Ag, Other Topics At Dairy Meeting

GETTYSBURG (Adams Co.) — A new milking parlor, a high producing herd, and a preview of agriculture in the former Soviet state of Moldavia were topics for discussion at the dairy twilight meeting sponsored by the Adams County Holstein Club on Thursday, July 15.

Hosted by the Donlemer Farm of Leroy, Nona, and Mark Deputy in East Berlin, the meeting was presided over by Marvin Brown, resident.

The Deputy family cares for a milking herd of 112 Holsteins, which in 1992 produced an average of 22,265 pounds of milk, 842 pounds of fat, and 702 pounds of protein to rank second among herds on DHIA testing in the county.

The herd is milked through a double eight, rapid exit, parallel parlor which operates hydraulically and features automatic take-off milkers and indexing stalls.

Describing her experiences with the Friendship Force, an international exchange program started by former President Jimmy Carter, Sally Brown Bair of Lancaster told

of conditions in the former Soviet republic of Moldavia. A small country about the size of Colorado, Moldavia is located between Romania and the Ukraine at about the same latitude as Pennsylvania.

Agriculture accounts for 40 percent of the country's gross national product and provides jobs to 40 percent of the workforce. Most of the employment remains on large collective farms. "After seventy years of communism, the people find it difficult to think for themselves — a very real problem in the transition to privatization," said Bair. She listed the problems confronting agriculture as "too many employees, very expensive fuel, a lack of cold storage, and drought."

"Unpaved streets and outdoor toilets are common in the villages of Moldavia," said Bair. Families typically reside in one or two bedroom apartments and spend some time daily at food shopping, often standing in line to buy eggs when they are available. While the natives view America as the land of opportunity, Sally Bair feels it may take generations before they overcome the effects of oppressive

communism.

Adams County Dairy Princess Lisha Mummert of East Berlin reported that she has completed training for her role in milk promotion the week of July 6 at Lycom-

ing College. She shared the excitement of serving ice cream to 10,000 people in Philadelphia on June 23 in the "Every Day is Sunday" promotion. Lisha is available to speak to local consumer groups

on the nutritional benefits of dairy products.

County Agent Thomas E. Piper urged the dairy farm families to support the promotional effort

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## 4-H'ers Prepare

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Sheep: 1. Lebanon. 2. York. 3. Lancaster. Swine: 1. York. 2. Lebanon. 3. Lancaster. Reasons: 1. Lebanon. 2. York. 3.

Lancaster. Overall Teams: 1. Lebanon. 2. York. 3. Lancaster. Overall Individual: 1. Jon Harnish. 2. Matt Sellers. 3. Adam Sellers.



Top senior team at the regional 4-H livestock judging contest was awarded to Lebanon County, comprised of, from left, Dan Atkins, Jon Harnish, and Brian Kreider.

## 'Odor Crisis' Propels

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• Harlan Keener, Lancaster County swine producer and owner of working digester. Keener operates a 1,000-sow farrow-to-finish operation. Several years ago, he constructed a digester. He said there hasn't been much interest in digesters from the industry. "The big boys don't want to touch it, they say it's not practical, because there's no money in it for them." But for hog operations, it's a practical way to get rid of odors and provide supplemental power for farm operations, saving farmers money.

• James Kauffman, Lancaster County poultry farmer, who manages about 75,000 pullets and is looking for ways to more effectively manage manure. He is also looking for ways to obtain inexpensive power to contribute to his farming operation.

• Virgil Gutshall, Perry County vo-ag teacher. Gutshall also operates a 330-sow farrow-to-finish operation and is looking for ways not only to handle manure odors, but to use the information to set up informational exhibits at school and as a special Farm Show display.

• Dr. Robert E. Graves, professor of ag and bioengineering, Penn State. Graves said one of the unique elements of the effort "is the fact that we have farmers going over," he said, who can use the experience to obtain a model for their farms.

• Gerald M. Heistand, assistant administrator, Lancaster Conser-

vation District. Heistand said the group will examine ways that small to medium-sized farms may be able to use the information obtained to set up their own digesters. "We're seeing if we can't bring that technology back here and fit it into a particular niche in the United States, particularly with the small farms here in southeastern Pennsylvania."

Heistand said several areas in China do not have rural electricity and depend heavily on the digesters to obtain power.

"I think what we're looking at here is a question of self-sufficiency," he said. "I think those farmers that enjoy being self-sufficient will really tap into this project."

The group, when they come back, has a timetable to set up a "package" of information that will be released, through the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, to the public, according to Heistand. The times of release are still being worked out, according to Lawrence J. Lentz, program manager of the center.

The actual itinerary for the trip is being set up at this time by the host country, according to Dr. Richard Fite, group leader. The group will leave China and head back to the U.S. on August 20.

But when the group returns, they will be putting together the information they obtained for use by farmers here.

"People are looking to this area for advice and for progress as to what's happening," said Heistand.

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