

Lebanon Holstein Club Honors Youth

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
SCHAEFFERSTOWN (Lebanon Co.) — About 170 people attended the Lebanon County Holstein Club's annual meeting Thursday evening at the Schaefferstown Fire Hall.

In addition to holding its annual banquet, the group presented a number of youth production awards, reviewed past business and elected three directors.

All the youth production awards were based on 305-day lactation production.

Stephanie Wagner's Ju-Vindale Melvin Valid swept the 2-year-old production class with a record of 24,637 pounds of milk, 850 pounds of fat, and 776 pounds of protein.

Among the youth with 3-year-old registered Holstein cows, Ryan Miller's Lime-Rock Kirk Boy Cupcake was top producer for milk with 26,216 pounds. Christopher Wagner's Ju-Vindale Beautician Dove-ET posted the best fat production record with 1,006 pounds. Amanda Martin's Dlb-Lec-Dee Dixiecrat Angel recorded the highest protein production with 820 pounds.

In the 4-year-old class, Darren Nolt's Stumpland Melvin Ladonna made 28,476 pounds of milk, and 936 pounds of protein. Stephanie Wagner's Ju-Vindale Beautician Bev was tops for fat production with 1,105 pounds.

In the 5-year-old class, Justin Troutman's Oakenbound Chief Frost produced the most milk, recording 31,402 pounds of milk, while Christopher Wagner's 5-year-old was first place for fat production with 1,116 pounds, and protein with 894 pounds.

In the election of three directors, Jim Hill, Dan Brandt and Curwin Good were named to replace outgoing president Mike Arnold, Jay Weaver, treasurer, and Eugene Martin, who served as reporter.

Alan Hostetter, who has served for the past six years as the club's state director, announced that his term limit has expired and that the experience he had, representing the county at the state level, was both rewarding and educational.

According to Hostetter, the state association is seeking sponsors for portions of the February state convention, set to be held in Gettysburg.

Additionally, the association is seeking consignments for the annual convention sale.

In other business, the club makes available an annual scholarship of \$500 and this year's winner was Michelle Mase, daughter of Kenneth and Irene Mase. She was unable to attend the club meeting, because she is currently a student at Penn State University in State College.

In other news, Clarence Stauffer, field representative for the Pa. Holstein Association, reminded members of the association's search for bred heifers for a shipment to Saudi Arabia, but even more imminent is a small sale of short-bred heifers to Bolivia.

According to Stauffer, he is looking now for heifers whose pedigree and index is such that the sire and service sire have at least a PTAM of +1,000 pounds milk, that the heifer's dam be classified at minimum a Good Plus-83, with a Good Plus mammary, and have a minimum production of 17,000 pounds of milk with a 3.4 percent fat.

The heifers must also have been bred between July 15, 1993 and Oct. 15. Acknowledging that a confirmed pregnancy may be too early as of now, Stauffer said not to worry, but to submit the bred heifer for consideration. If she is confirmed pregnant later, she will still be eligible.

Stauffer said that any actual movement of those heifers is not required prior to the Bolivian buyers accepting the animals. He said

he needs the papers for the animals, but the deadline is Nov. 10.

Anyone with a heifer that may fit the requirements should call Stauffer at (717) 738-2406.

In his talk to the group, Stauffer also urged members to talk to neighbors who may be eligible for getting their animals into the Qualified Herd Book. The qualified book is a way to eventually have the offspring of a grade cow become registered.

In the United States, it takes a minimum of four generations for a line to achieve registered status. However, Stauffer told the group that Canadian Holstein breeders accept into its registered book, first generation qualified animals, which accounts for why sometimes a registered Canadian animal is not recognized in the United States as registered, though it may qualify or be considered an identified grade animal.

Overall, as of Oct. 16, state registrations have been down by 5 percent over last year, Stauffer said. He reported that, as of October, for the year, 8,293 animals were entered into the association's qualified book.

Hayden Speaks To New York Grange

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. — The quality of education in New York's rural school districts is below that of districts in more urban areas, a member of the New York State Board of Regents said.

Carl T. Hayden, speaking to more than 200 members of the New York State Grange gathered here for their 121st annual meeting, said a commitment to a more astute use of technology might help bridge the gap.

"Kids in rural areas are being shortchanged when it comes to education," said Hayden, an Elmira attorney who attended high school in the tiny Marathon Central School district. "Rural schools need to make a mighty noise as to the entitlement to available technology. We need to get our schools wired."

Hayden added that it's no longer enough for students to focus only on the basics. "It's not sufficient for our children to know what we know if we expect them to compete," Hayden said. "We'd be dooming them to a second-class citizenship."

Hayden is one of several speakers who addressed Grangers during the four-day convention. Richard McGuire, state commissioner of agriculture and markets, also visited.

State Grange Master William Benson, Jr. opened festivities during a Friday evening banquet

attended by more than 300 people. Benson outlined a number of problems now facing New York State. He was particularly critical of the National Rifle Association and its opposition to any form of gun control.

"If the NRA is the patriotic, flag-waving, all-American institution it proclaims to be, isn't it time for its leadership to start considering our families and friends instead of its own self-centered interests? The rights of the American citizen to bear arms can be protected without being ridiculous."

Nearly 200 convention delegates will have considered some 130 policy resolutions by the conclusion of business.

Expansion Strategies Dairies Conference Set

ITHACA, N.Y. — Dairy farmers, extension staff, agricultural lenders, builders, equipment dealers, and veterinarians are invited to an important regional conference, "Expansion Strategies for Dairy Farms: Facilities and Financial Planning," to be held on November 18 and 19 in Mercer, Pa. The conference is being planned by faculty at Penn State and Ohio State Universities, with assistance from the Northeast Regional Agricultural Engineering Service (NRAES).

"Many farmers are at a crossroads," said Bob Graves, professor in the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering at Penn State. "They're having to decide whether to make major changes to their facilities to stay competitive and modern into the 21st century. This conference gives them a chance to review their options."

Dairy farmers must consider the long-term effects expansion will have on their finances, the health and productivity of their cows, the efficiency and comfort of their workers, and the surrounding environment. "Expansion Strategies for Dairy Farms" will bring together experts on these issues and more so that dairy farmers and others involved in the expansion process will be better able to make sound decisions. Presentations will focus on incremental expansion as a strategy to ensure the debt load is reasonable when compared to anticipated cash flow.

Everyone involved in the expansion process will benefit from this educational experience. Dairy farmers and managers considering dairy farm expansion will

learn about the many facets of planning and executing a successful expansion — from financing to manure management plans. Extension agents, facilities planners, engineers, builders, and equipment suppliers will learn up-to-date techniques for selecting freestall floor plans, ventilation systems, milking center designs, and materials. Financial and management advisors and veterinarians will improve their ability to evaluate proposed dairy facilities.

The conference will begin with a series of case studies. Several dairy farmers will detail the pros and cons of their experiences with expansion. The remainder of the conference will consist of short, 25-minute minipresentations from specialists in dairy facilities, agricultural lending, facilities planning, manure handling, and construction. Informal discussion periods will be interspersed with the presentations to allow participants time to talk with speakers and each other about specific concerns and issues.

The conference will be held at the Mercer County Extension Office in Mercer.

Registration fee for the conference is \$90 if received by November 8 and \$110 after November 8 or for walk-ins. The fee includes admission to the conference, two lunches, break refreshments, and a notebook of information related to dairy expansions. For a brochure containing a complete conference agenda, a map to the conference, and a registration form, contact NRAES, Cooperative Extension, 152 Riley-Robb Hall, Ithaca NY 14853-5701, or call (607) 255-7654.


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