

# Lebanon Dairymen Lead State Fifth Year Straight

**VERNON ACHENBACH JR.**  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
**MYERSTOWN** (Lebanon Co.) — Lebanon County dairymen whose 11,648 cows on test with the Pennsylvania Dairy Herd Improvement Association for the fifth straight year topped the state for average herd production of milk.

The announcement was made Tuesday night during the county association's annual banquet and business meeting held at the Myerstown Church of the Brethren in Myerstown.

According to the statistics, Lebanon County's Pa.DHIA members' herds averaged 20,108 pounds of milk per cow for the year ending September. The state average was 18,255 pounds of milk.

Also, the county was second highest with average protein production with 637 pounds per cow. They tied for sixth place with fat production, averaging 716 pounds per cow.

According to Kenneth Winebark, county extension agent, the Lebanon County DHIA ended its 64th year with 170 official herds on test and seven on owner-sampler.

"For the fifth consecutive year, Lebanon County DHIA producers are the number 1 milk producers in Pennsylvania," Winebark said, adding that the county picked up an extra 100 cows and increased the per-cow milk production by 75 pounds.

However, Winebark tempered his message with news that the

monetary return on the increased production has not been good.

"Even though we picked up an additional 100 cows and all the cows produced on the average of 75 pounds more milk this year, the value of the milk produced dropped by \$74 per cow, and the value of milk above feed costs decreased by \$93 per cow.

"It's obvious then, that strict attention must be paid to feed costs for 1994," Winebark said. "You, as managers of the herd, must become more astute in your decision making in order to survive."

In other news, Winebark said that 107 herds in the county have selected a somatic cell option with their DHIA test report, in order to track the quality of milk, especially since the SCC limit was dropped to 750,000.

"I am particularly proud of the accomplishments of Lebanon County's DHIA producers. I encourage you to keep up the fine jobs you're doing, but caution you on making careful decisions in the years ahead."

In other business, the approximately 200 members who attended the meeting elected three directors to replace outgoing directors Raymond Getz, James Hill, and Kirby Horst, whose terms expire at the end of December.

Elected to office were Kenneth Sellers, Dennis Kauffman and David Groff.

Production awards were also presented during the meeting, with Bruce Heilinger, of Newmans-town being recognized for having the top averaging herd of Brown Swiss in the state, and the top cow for a lifetime production, a grade Holstein.

Heilinger's 36 milking registered Brown Swiss posted a production average of 18,816 pounds of milk, with a component profile of 673 pounds of fat and 644 pounds of protein.

Gary Forney, of Lebanon RD 4, was recognized for having the herd with the lowest averaging SCC. His 36-cow, mixed grade and registered Holstein herd averaged an SSC count of 110,000.

The registered Ayrshire herd of Dale and Pattie Maulfair, of Jones-town followed closely with an 111,000 count.

The top milk and protein producing cow in the county was a 5-year-old registered Holstein owned by Vince and Julie Wagner, of Myerstown.

The Wagners' No. 138 posted a 305-day lactation production of 37,976 pounds of milk with a component profile of 3 percent, or 1,136 pounds protein, and 3.2 per-



From the left, owners of the 1993 Lebanon County DHIA top-producing cows are, from the left, Barb and Gary Lentz, Vincent Wagner and Bruce Heilinger.



Duane Good, son of Curvin and Dawn Good, and Harlon Good, Curvin's younger brother who helps on the farm, display the awards the Goods earned for managing the leading Lebanon County DHIA herd for average production.

cent, or 1,213 pounds fat.

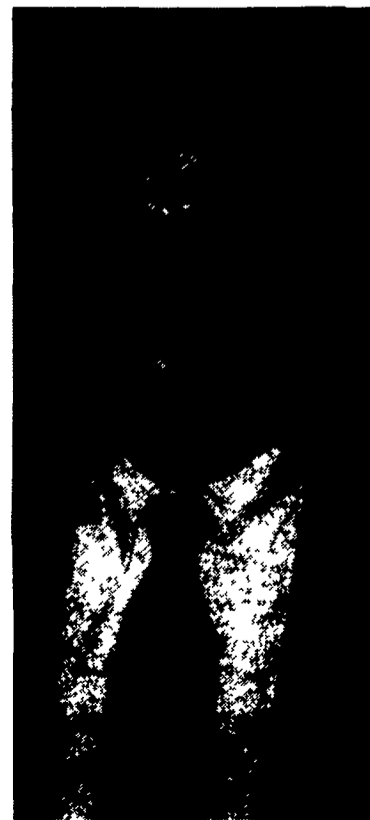
The cow with the county's top fat production was a registered Holstein owned by Gary and Barbara Lentz, of Lebanon.

The top-producing herd in the county is owned by Curvin and Dawn Good, whose 81 milking mixed registered and grade Holsteins averaged 26,399 pounds of milk, 911 pounds of fat and 832 pounds of protein.

The Goods were also the recipients of the county's top DHIA Herd Management Award.

According to Winebark, what makes the Goods' achievement so significant was that two years ago, their dairy facilities were burned down. According to Pa.DHIA statistics, the Goods' herd recovered over the past year with an average increase in production of 2,140 pounds of milk, 34 pounds of fat and 87 pounds of protein.

Second place honors went to David and Chris Williams, third went to Donald Krall, fourth to Leon Kline and fifth to Irvin Brubaker.



Dale Hoover.

## Teleconference Registration Deadline Set

**UNIVERSITY PARK** (Centre Co.) — The December 6 date for early registration is fast approaching for the dairy nutrition teleconferences and workshops to be held on February 10, 17, and 24, 1994.

Sponsored by Penn State's Department of Dairy and Animal Science, in collaboration with the College of Agricultural Sciences, the workshops will be offered via satellite at more than 45 locations in Pennsylvania and six nearby states.

These workshops combine local hands-on activities conducted by extension agents and interaction with University faculty via satellite at locations in Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Producers can ask questions about their own farm operations to expand their knowledge of nutrition and feeding management. Participants are encouraged to bring one forage sample to the first workshop to be analyzed for use in the second workshop.

Workshops will start at 10 a.m. and end at 3 p.m., with an hour for lunch. They will feature several video segments presented via satellite, exercises, and discussions on nutrition-related topics conducted by county agents, plus a question and answer period with specialists in dairy nutrition, agronomy, and agricultural engineering.

Participants will be limited to the seating capacity at each site. Those who do not register by the December 6 deadline will be permitted to register late if space permits. A \$25 registration fee includes the cost of a forage sample analysis. An additional charge will be made if meals are provided, but this will vary with site. To register or obtain more information, contact the extension office in your county.



Bruce Heilinger



New directors of the board of Lebanon County DHIA are, from the left, Dennis Kauffman and Kenneth Sellers. Not shown is David Groff.