

Company Nutrition Day Held

BIRDSBORO (Berks Co.) — On Thursday, Jan. 20th over 250 dairy and livestock producers came to the program on nutrition sponsored by F.M. Brown's Sons, Inc. In spite of the temperature reading of 12 degrees outside, the Leesport Livestock Auction meeting hall was warm and dry, and the meeting room chairs were almost filled to capacity. Dr. Carl Brown, sales manager, opened the meeting by discussing its purpose.

"Our goal is to educate our clients so that working together we can more successfully meet the challenges of feeding livestock in an efficient and economical way," Brown said. He pointed out that many of the areas discussed two years ago at a previous meeting such as Brown's 1350/21 heifer program are now just receiving headlines in the popular press. He then went on to introduce the speakers who had flown in from Wisconsin the previous day. These speakers felt like they were in a heat wave. The temperature was minus 30 degrees in Madison, Wisc. when they left on Wednesday morning. Dr. Brown also recognized the 18 exhibitors who had displays at the meeting and helped sponsor the speakers. Several had driven from New York, Ohio, and Virginia to be represented.

Dr. Randy Shaver opened the program with a talk entitled

Rumen Protein - A Key to Maximizing Profitable Milk Yield. He reviewed the various types of protein fractions in feeds and the requirements of the dairy cow in regard to these fractions. Dr. Shaver was originally from Pennsylvania, but since 1988 has been the Dairy Extension Nutrition Specialist for the State of Wisconsin. He reviewed research on what the top one-hundred herds in Wisconsin were doing in regard to feeding soluble, degradable, and undegradable protein. He also showed how forages provided these various types of protein fractions, and each has to be matched against the requirements of the animal. He warned against the excess use of both soluble and undegradable protein. In addition Dr. Shaver discussed the quality of undegradable protein sources. He highlighted heat-treated soybean meals such as Morameal and fish meal as two of the best and most economical sources of the undegradable amino acids which high producing dairy cows need. In his concluding remarks he showed how non-fiber carbohydrate sources must be matched against rumen soluble protein, and cautioned about the negative impacts excess fat has on rumen microbial populations.

Len Strozinski, herd manager of the US Forage Research Center

was next on the program. His topic was **How I Adjust Research Results To On Farm Reality.** He started his presentation by discussing the various sources of information available to dairy and livestock producers, and some of the pluses and minuses of each. He cited veterinarians, ag magazines & newspapers, extension, and feed consultants as the principle sources of information for farmers. He gave examples of situations where he was provided information which turned out to be false and told the dairyman in attendance to always ask for the source of the information. "A call to the source is always worth considering," he said. "If a source for the information is not available, then consider the information suspect."

Dr. Kennett, Brown's director of nutrition discussed the relatively new concept that shows there is little difference between feeding dairy heifers and beef steers. They are both ruminants, and both are therefore governed by many of the same nutritional principles. He discussed the Cornell Net Carbohydrate System and how it is being used by Brown's to formulate rations based on customer goals and quality of feeds available. He reviewed how this has been applied over the past two

years in several herds to speed the rate of growth on dairy heifers.

Before lunch, Eric Sheib, seed division director for Brown's Sons, Inc., updated the audience on the spring seed situation. There is an excellent supply of alfalfa and seed corn available, but oats, spring barley, and certain varieties

of soybeans are limited. He encouraged those who were short on forage this winter to consider Pea-Kal (Triticale & Canadian Peas) when starting Alfalfa. Following Eric's brief remarks an excellent meal was provided by Wegman's Catering featuring Brown's fed turkey and roast beef.

Grange Offers Ag Scholarships

THURMONT, Md. — Rodman Myers, chairman of the Maryland State Grange Agriculture Scholarship Committee, announced the Maryland State Grange will offer five scholarships this year.

Three \$300 Past Masters scholarships will be awarded to recipients who are enrolling in agriculture- or science-related courses at a Community College in Maryland.

Two \$500 Edward F. Holter University of Maryland Agriculture Scholarships are available to students enrolling in agriculture at the University of Maryland, UMES or enrolling in a two-year program at the University of Maryland Institute of Applied Agriculture in 1994.

Deadline for applications is April 1.

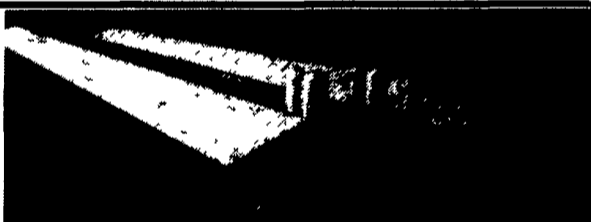
Myers said the Grange is always interested in maintaining quality education and is able to do this by offering the agriculture scholarship program.

For applications, contact C. Rodman Myers, 15727 Smith Road, Thurmont, MD 21788, (301) 271-2104 or any of the following committee members Paul Stull, Frederick County, (301) 898-9345; Allen Stiles, Carroll County, (301) 846-7100; Henry Magness, Harford County (301) 879-3325; Loren Fulton, Prince Georges County, (301) 935-5218; Walton Mason, Cecil County (301) 658-6447; John Swadley, Washington County, (301) 733-2232; Kenneth Wisner, (301) 845-8450; Dave Miller, (301) 473-5199; or Betty Bures (301) 371-7397.

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