

Garden Spot Red Rose DHIA Holds Meeting

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
RONKS (Lancaster Co.) — The Garden Spot Red Rose Dairy Herd Improvement Association held its annual meeting and banquet Wednesday at the Ronks Fire Hall, in Ronks.

According to officials, the association is doing well and can expect to see dramatic changes to services as soon as March.

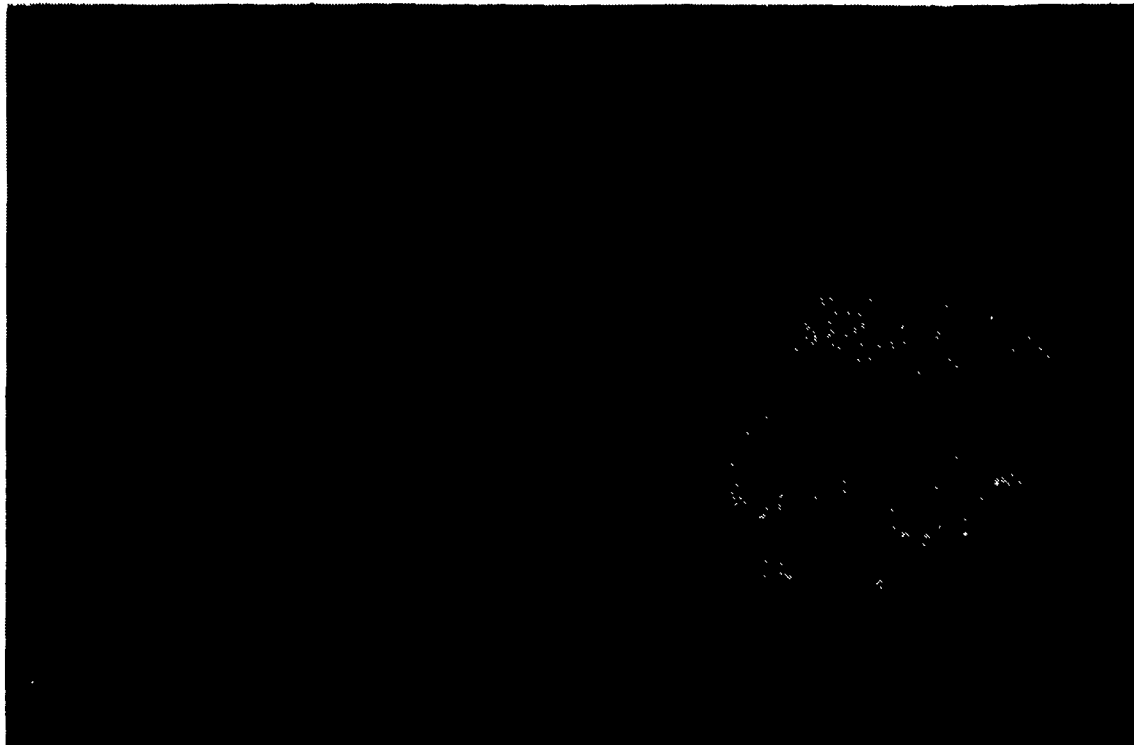
During an election of directors to its board, James Brenneman, of Quarryville, was re-elected, and Mervin Stoltzfus, of Lancaster was elected.

An election of officers is to be done during a re-organizational meeting, to be announced.

David Slusser, recently named general manager of the Pennsylvania Dairy Herd Association, said that there are a lot of changes in the operation of national DHIA and that Pennsylvania has become somewhat of a testing ground.

He said that the 4,300-member Pa.DHIA is undergoing a rebuilding of its foundation and is working toward making improvements.

He said that because of the tight profit margin, family farms need to



From the left, Jack Fritz, representing J. Harold Fritz dairy farm, accepts an award for herd management and high herd for protein and milk production among members of the Garden Spot Red Rose DHIA, while Tom and Dale Smith, of K&Q Swiss, receive a first place award for having the lowest average somatic cell count.

have the best available and cost-efficient information available to manage their businesses for a livable profit.

Likewise, he said Pa.DHIA also is becoming more efficient and is

working to cut down unnecessary costs and provide services members want.

Slusser said that while he and others may long for past days when margins were more forgiving of errors in personal farm management, "We have different times and have to serve those different times."

He said he has a personal interest in seeing that Pa.DHIA is of direct benefit to its member producers.

He said that the milk testing laboratory in State College recently was scored 100 percent on a rating system by National DHIA, making it one of the best in the nation. Its data processing and field service also received a 100 percent rating from National DHIA, he said.

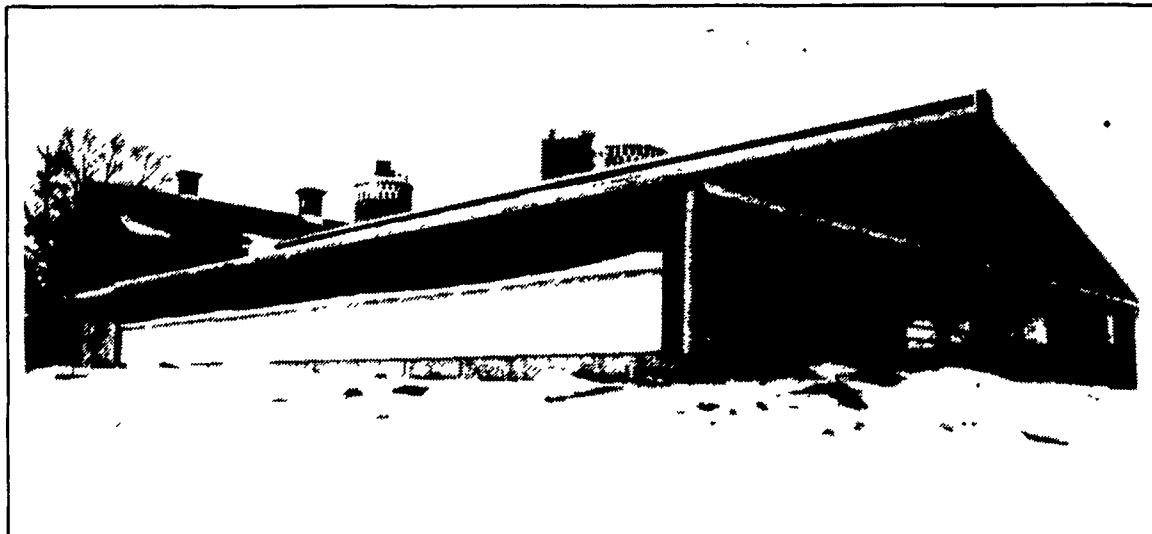
Slusser, who has been traveling the state and meeting with field technicians, staff and producers, basically said that it appears to him that the competitiveness of the industry and the marginal profits has seemed to cause some people to lose their compassion and ability to forgive each other.

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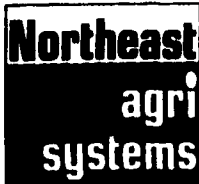


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