

Lancaster Dairy Days, Tie-Stall Remodeling Meetings Set

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Lancaster County DairyDays are scheduled for Tuesdays, February 22 and March 1, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center.

The theme for this year's Dairy Days is Managing High Producing Cows Profitably. Both days feature dairy consultants and practitioners who have a lot of field experience working with successful farms in New England, New York, Pennsylvania and the Mid-Atlantic states.

On February 22, Dr. Brian L. Perkins and Robert C. Fry will team up to share their experiences and thoughts on managing dairy farms for profit with an emphasis on nutrition, reproduction, and management practices for helping to improve the bottom line.

Dr. Perkins had worked several years in the Lancaster area as a nutritionist before moving to Vermont and starting his own consulting service, Dairy Management Services, Inc. He services herds through out the New England states and upper New York.

After working on his family's large dairy farm in Chestertown,

Md., Dr. Robert C. Fry set up his own consulting service and practice, Atlantic Dairy Management Services. He advises a large range of dairy farms, from small family farms to large corporate enterprises.

Are your heifers and dry cows in good enough condition to begin their next lactation with a running start? Will they consume enough dry matter and will their ration be formulated in a manner that will enable them to peak well and sustain high levels of milk production without losing excessive amounts of weight and without developing metabolic problems such as fatty livers, ketosis, DA's, Laminitis, etc.? Will cows breed back well and will they be healthy enough to stay in the herd long enough to reward you with some good offspring, some satisfaction and some profit? That is a tremendous challenge for today's progressive dairy farmers — and for this year's Dairy Days speakers.

On March 1, the focus will be on herd health with an emphasis on: vaccine and cows' immune systems, reducing somatic cell counts, controlling and preventing mastitis and Johne's disease, and

Pennsylvania's Johne's certification program.

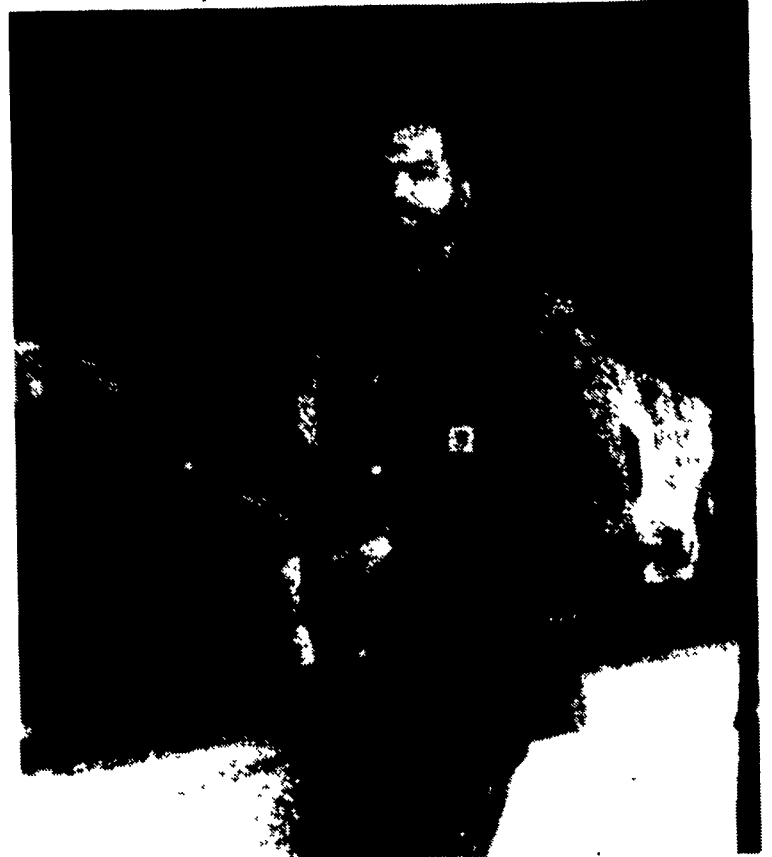
These health topics will be addressed by a team of practitioners with a lot of field experience. They include: John C. Simms, VMD; New Bolton Veterinarian, Ray Sweeney, Richard Bartholomew and Robert Whitlock; plus Lawrence J. Hutchinson, Professor of Veterinary Science at Penn State. Also sharing their experience and thoughts on Johne's disease will be a panel of local farmers, Larry Harnish from Washington Boro and Axel Linde and Millie Widmann from Oxford.

Tie-Stall Barn

Remodeling and Expansion

Many farmers are thinking about remodeling or expanding their tie-stall dairy barns in an effort to become more efficient. To help them with these ideas, a meeting has been scheduled for the purpose of discussing remodeling and expansion ideas for tie-stall barns. It will be held Friday, February 25, 10 a.m. until 12 noon at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center.

Penn State is an affirmative action, equal opportunity university.



Brian Perkins, dairy consultant from New Haven, Vermont, will be one of the featured speakers February 22 at Lancaster Dairy Day. See story for program outline and other scheduled speakers.

National FFA'er Says Japan Trip Was Great Exchange With Positive People

ANDY ANDREWS

Lancaster Farming Staff
GREENVILLE, N.Y. — Liam Brody, FFA eastern region vice president, wants all FFA'ers to know that, internationally, Japan holds FFA in high regard.

Despite what is happening on the trade front (with a possible trade war looming in the spring, according to current reports), the message that he took to Japan from the U.S. was positive and reinforced the attitude that two countries can work together.

Brody, 19, son of Pat and Bill Brody, Greenville, is a member of the Greenville FFA. He participated, along with six other national FFA officers, in the National FFA Officer International Experience Program at the end of January.

During their trip to Japan, the group visited a large number of agricultural businesses and historical landmarks in Kyoto and Tokyo.

Brody said some of the Japanese people view our government as "overly aggressive, almost to the

point of pushy," regarding working out the trade problems. He said that one of the reasons they feel that way is because, in years past, because of arrangements worked out with the two governments, Japan reduced its rice crop production to help balance the trade deficit. But the past growing season, Japan experienced a drought and must deal with the shortage of crop.

"They hold the U.S. responsible in the long run," said Brody. However, he said the experience was "one of the greatest exchanges with a positive people that hold a reverence for all kinds of people."

As a result of this learning experience, a videotape was prepared that Brody and other tour members will highlight in several speeches across the country in the coming months.

Included will be stops in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, and other areas making up about 250,000 miles.

First, Brody travels this week to Washington, D.C. as part of the

activities of National FFA Week, which runs from Feb. 19-26. There, he will be visiting U.S. representatives to speak about his experiences abroad.

This year's theme is "FFA — Leadership For America." In a release, the national organization indicated that during FFA Week and throughout the year, "FFA chapters conduct activities that develop the leadership skills of high school students. These experiences will prepare them for important leadership roles in the future."

While in Washington, Brody will be speaking to several news organizations. Brody said that Andrew McCrea, national FFA secretary, is scheduled to be interviewed on NBC's Today Show. Some of the highlights may include segments of the video taken in Japan.

Brody said that his involvement in FFA began when he heard good things about his FFA adviser, William Ransom. Brody said that many people spoke highly of the

teacher, who simply made "learning fun."

Brody garnered his project work experience at a horse farm in Greenville and also worked on the Echo Vale Farm, operated by Sarah Hall, also in Greenville. Echo Vale raises about 200 head of registered Montadale and Suffolk sheep.

Brody said the first year he cleaned the stalls and did other tasks that helped him learn a lot about sheep production, including "worming, breeding, clipping, and showing," he said.

He also showed at several local fairs and at the state fair. He helped Hall show at the Eastern States Exposition in Springfield, Mass.

Brody has served as chapter vice

president (1988-1989), district president (1990-1991), state vice president (1991-1992), and regional vice president (1993-1994). He said that FFA continues to grow at a tremendous pace, up from less than 400,000 members three years ago to 417,000 today.

He believes that every FFA member should have a chance to learn about the international importance of agriculture. The career opportunities in ag will be in sales and international agriculture.

Brody said it is important for FFA'ers to increase their perceptions of other cultures to help improve the opportunities for all members and to react positively to all situations.

Water Resource Workshop Set

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Many rural and urban homeowners throughout Pennsylvania own property which contains a surface water resource. This water resource may be a stream, lake, pond, or a wetland.

"What can I do with this wetland?" This is a question which is commonly asked by property owners. Perhaps the simplest thing to do is to enhance the wetland vegetation to provide diversity, beauty, and wildlife habitat. Does your property contain a creek or stream? Do you know how to tell if the stream is healthy or if it needs "repair"? Are you plagued by a stream with eroding banks? What permits do I need before I start working?

These questions and many more will be discussed during the Landowner Water Resource Awareness

Workshop which will be held on March 8 at the Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster. The morning sessions will begin at 9 a.m. and cover the topics of wetland ID, stream improvement, and permits. The afternoon sessions will begin at 1:30 and cover the topics of wetland enhancement and stream bank stabilization.

Speakers for the day will be representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, and the Lancaster County Conservation District. Representatives from private industry have been invited to display and promote their services.

For more information, contact the Lancaster County Conservation District at (717) 299-5261.



The National FFA elected six national officers recently at the 66th National FFA Convention. Front row, from left, Curtis C. Childers, 20, national president, Nemo, Texas and Andrew McCrea, 21, national secretary, Maysville, Mo. Back row, from left, Raquel Lacey, 21, central regional vice president, Nokomis, Ill.; Tyler Grandil, 20, western region vice president, Gilbert, Ariz.; Steven Mitchell, 19, southern region vice president, Pineville, Ark.; and Liam Brody, 19, eastern region vice president, Greenville, N.Y.

