

Lifeline



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# Dairy Future Committee Moves On Plans To Unite Industry

**EVERETT NEWSWANGER**  
Managing Editor  
**HARRISBURG** (Dauphin Co.)—In an effort to bolster the image of the Pennsylvania dairy industry and provide a more unified voice to consumers and government entities, a group of dairy leaders met Tuesday at the PDA building to make plans for a special forum to be held in early June. The meeting was an outgrowth of the

Pennsylvania Dairy Industry Future Committee that has met several times since July 1992, in an attempt to bring together the many different segments of the Pennsylvania dairy industry that are involved "from cows to consumers," as Boyd Wolff, state ag secretary, likes to say.  
Wolff and Lamartine Hood, dean, Penn State University, co-chair the committee, and the scope

of the effort to unify the state dairy voice continues to grow as the committee's direction becomes more focused.  
In opening the planning meeting, Sec. Wolff said prices for milk have been stable, but the costs of production have gone up. "We must find a way to keep the dairy industry viable in Pennsylvania," Wolff said.  
Concerns raised by the commit-

tee include loss of competitive advantage; fewer non-farmer support industries, and the large investments needed, both in farm and processing enterprises.  
Wolff said we have the markets and the processing interstructure. And we have the climate, soils, and animals to do the job. But over the long haul, we need better management, marketing, and cooperation to keep the dairy industry viable in Pennsylvania.  
Dairy farmers, educators, legislative, food and processing representatives were in attendance at the meeting.

Wayne Schutjer, official representative of Dean Hood, told the group that Pennsylvania's dairy industry is strong because of its diversity. "We have a large variety of farmers from 'Amish to English,'" Schutjer said. "And we have some of the smallest operations and also some of the very largest dairy farms. This tremendous diversity gives us great strength and more stability."  
"But our diversity also hampers our cooperation. It's more difficult for us to come together. That's what this process (dairy futures (Turn to Page A30)



The Romano 4-H Center Dairy Sale, of which the St. Johns are donating three calves, is scheduled Saturday, April 2, at 11 a.m. at the Solanco Fairgrounds in Quarryville. The St. Johns hope that the sale draws together the farmers in the county for a common cause — promoting and continuing the 4-H program. From left, J.R., Kathy, Krystal, Kasey, and John St. John. Photo by Andy Andrews

## Maryland Holstein Convention Highlighted

**KAREN BUTLER**  
Maryland Correspondent  
**HAGERSTOWN, Md.** — Washington County Holstein breeders hosted the 30th annual Maryland Holstein Association Convention last Saturday at the Hagerstown Ramada Inn.  
The event drew approximately 150 people for the day meeting, and about 300 attended the evening banquet. Members came from Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and North Carolina for the annual meeting.  
Kenlin Martin, Smithsburg, was

chairman of the convention. Oren Bender, outgoing president of the Holstein Association, thanked the members of the state organization for their ongoing cooperation. In his final address to the association, he stressed the need for continuing the "spirit of cooperation and concern for each other as Maryland Holstein breeders" on into the future.  
New officers for the association were presented at the banquet later in the evening. Charles E. Iager, Jr., of Fulton, MD is the new president. He assumes the role follow- (Turn to Page A22)

## Chester 4-H Center Benefit Sale Set For April 2

**ANDY ANDREWS**  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
**NEW LONDON** (Chester Co.) — To lifelong dairy farmers John and Kathy St. John, what's more important isn't necessarily the money generated from an upcoming sale to help pay for the costs for a new Chester County 4-H Center. It's the attempt to bring unity to an industry and a way of life that is fast fading from the countryside in

a rapidly urbanized area.  
The Romano 4-H Center Dairy Sale, of which the St. Johns are donating three calves, is scheduled Saturday, April 2, at 11 a.m. at the Solanco Fairgrounds in Quarryville.  
The St. Johns hope that the sale draws together the farmers in the county for a common cause — promoting and continuing the 4-H program.

"Some of those who have contacted us were members of 4-H in Chester County and have moved to Lancaster and other counties," said John St. John. "They have expressed an interest in donating animals for sale."  
To the St. John family, 4-H has helped promote education for the youth, who in turn pass along the education to others about how essential and interconnected farming is to other livelihoods.  
Together with wife Kathy and son J.R., 15, and daughters Krystal, 12, and Kasey, 11, the fourth-generation farm milks about 150 registered and grade Holsteins, with about 120 replacement stock. The St. Johns farm about 500 acres (320 acres on the home farm) and grow all their own feed.  
The three Holstein calves they are donating to the sale, to help defray costs of the new Romano 4-H Center on Rt. 322 near Honey Brook, range in age from four to seven months old. All three are grade. Farmers are welcome to (Turn to Page A28)

## New Reader Involvement

In response to readers' questions, a new column debuts this week in Section B, Page 19. Titled "You Ask — You Answer," the column is for those readers who have questions but don't know who to ask for the answers. In the past many readers sent non-cooking requests to Cook's Question Corner, a column also located in B section, Page 8. Cook's Question Corner will continue, but it is only for questions that pertain to cooking. "You Ask — You Answer" is

for non-cooking questions. The concept is the same: When a reader sends in a request question, it will be printed in the paper. Readers who know the answer are asked to respond by mailing the answer, which will then be printed as soon as possible in the paper.  
Questions and answers for both columns should be sent to Lancaster Farming %Lou Ann Good, P.O. Box 609, Ephrata, PA 17522.



The newly elected officers of the Maryland Holstein Association are from left, Charles Iager, president; Anita Hill, secretary/treasurer; and Jason Myers, vice president.