Forget Your Discomfort, **Keep Cow Comfort** Year Round

ROBERT GRAVES Ag Engineering Extension

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — This, has been a snowy, blowy, cold winter, with many days below zero degrees.

But a dry, well-fed cow, out of the wind, does not mind harsh winters.

She does need a well-ventilated barn, regardless of temperature or. weather conditions. Given a choice, cows still prefer cold and dry to warm and damp.

A dry, fresh, well ventilated freestall barn at 10 degrees is healthier than a poorly ventilated, humid, smelly barn at 40 degrees.

I am concerned that too many dairy managers will forget all we have learned about good ventilation.

They will let a few cold days or blowing snow keep them from ventilating barns with curtains and open ridges.

'alues

Surviving this hard winter hasn't been

easy. Collapsed buildings, caved-in

a few of the results of the unusual

amounts of snow, ice and rain.

roofs and water leakage problems are

Are you 100% certain that your current

policy provides coverage for this type

of catastrophe? Ours does. Don't take

a chance on getting snowed under next

They will forget that we have many more hot, humid summer days than cold, windy, below-zero winter days.

But, the inconvenience of a few winter days should not outweigh a summer's worth of cow comfort. We must build our barns for the cows' comfort year-round.

So, please, don't punish your cows because it was cold this winter! Continue to provide a dry, wellventilated freestall barn all year. Provide adequate ventilation openings, even on very cold days.

Use frostproof waterers, and run alley scrapers continuously or tractor scrape regularly. Provide your key employees and your cows with a world class working environment every day of the year.

Keep building and modifying barns so that side and end walls can be removed in the summer and ensure adequate openings --- even on cold winter days.



State Guernsey Banquet

Top awards at the Guernsey convention were presented to these winners from left, Justin McMurray, the George W., Snyder award; Amber Clark, the Sewickley trophy; and Jan Snyder from Snider-Homestead Farm, the John Brachman award.

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high herd for fat in 1993 with 43 cows, 16,898 milk, 593 protein, and 790 fat.

Top cow for milk and protein in 1993 was given to Lindenhof Mercury Ginger for 4:08, 27,783 milk; 1206 fat, and 917 protein.

The top cow for butterfat in 1993 was Rutter Bros. Jaspers Dorie of the Rutter Bros. Farm. 4:08, 21,735 milk, 768 protein, and 1367 fat.

"All Pennsylvania Awards" were presented to the following:

Junior Calf: Scott and Elsie Wolff and Peb-L-Brook Farm, Ouarryville.

Intermediate Heifer Calf: Elsie and Scott Wolff and Kevin Stoltzfus, Quarryville.

Senior Calf: Beth Anne Clark, Bedford.

Summer Yearling: Paula D. Guyer, Derry.

Junior Yearling: Amy Liggett, Enon Valley.

> Intermediate Yearling: Amanda Hemsarth, Millville.

Senior Yearling: David Shupp, Tunkhannock.

Junior 2 Year Old: Matthew Morrow. Tyrone.

Senior 2 Year Old: Elsie Wolff and Bernata Gable.

Junior 3 Year Old: Justin McMurray, Eighty-Four.

Senior 3 Year Old: Beth Anne Clark, Bedford.

Four Year Old: Sniders Homestead, New Enterprise.

Five Year Old & Over: Snider Homestead, New Enterprise.

Dry Cow, Four Years & Under: Jan Snider, New Enterprise.

Dry Cow, Five Years & Over: Aaron Gable, New Enterprise.

Best Bred & Owned All-Pennsylvania: Beth Anne Clark, Bedford.

Charlene Shupp of Tunkhannock was selected as the 1994 Guernsey Queen.

An auction of handcrafted, mostly Guernsey theme items, benefitted the Guernsey Youth.

Two cows brought more than \$3000 at the sale which concluded the convention.

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Fairgrounds 4-H building, selling average was \$1415.

Two Guernseys stood patiently while the bidding climbed beyond \$3000.

Scott Bates of Westerville, Ohio, saw his R-Way Perfect Lavendar senior calf go for \$3100. It was purchased by Troy Hill of Sandy Lake.

Peb-L-Brook F. Lorie, owned by Scott and Elsie Wolff of Pebblebrook Farm, Quarryville, was purchased by John DuPont of Lifeter Farms of New Town Square for \$3200.