

**Chester County
Dairy Milk Lines**

Walter Wurster
Extension
Dairy Agent

WALTER WURSTER
Chester Co. Extension Agent

The directors of Chester County DHIA unanimously voted on April 20, to recommend that their membership vote in favor of entering into a conditional merger agreement with Pa. DHIA.

Members can return ballots by mail by May 16, 1994, or vote in person on that date at 7:30 p.m. at the Extension office in the Government Services Center, Suite 370, Route 202 & Westtown Road, West Chester.

Members not casting a vote will be counted as a "yes" vote in favor of the merger.

Chester County DHIA will temporarily suspend business for one year and merge with Pa. DHIA. At the end of one year, the Board will decide whether to permanently merge with Pa. DHIA, return to independent status, or seek other alternatives.

For the last few months, the Chester County DHIA Board of Directors has been trying to find a way to provide a quality testing program at an economical cost for their dairy farmers. Under current condi-

tions, Chester County DHIA cannot continue to operate as an independent association without increasing rates.

The Board spent a day meeting with Pa. DHIA and Lancaster DHIA to hear proposals from both organizations. They evaluated both programs, plus the present program, before reaching their decision to merge conditionally with Pa. DHIA for one year.

The main reasons for reaching this decision are:

1- The overwhelming majority of Chester County DHIA members will realize lower monthly costs at rates that are competitive with other organizations. All members will receive the proposed rate schedule with their ballot and meeting notice.

2- Turn-around time between test day and receiving reports has been greatly improved and this important factor will continue.

3- The present technicians will be retained. Their salary package will be improved and their current benefits will be maintained.

4- The same reports that members are receiving will be continued. Reports have been produced on a high-quality laser printer for some time and will now have different colors for each report. Dairy operators will not have to learn how to use a new system of records.

5- New tru-test meters will replace most of the old milk-o-meters in the near future.

The directors urge all members to vote by May 16th. If there are any questions, contact a director in your area.

In other business, the Board hired Technician Tracy L. Witmer to take over the circuit currently serviced by Heather Becker. Heather is getting married and will be leaving Chester County DHIA in mid-May.

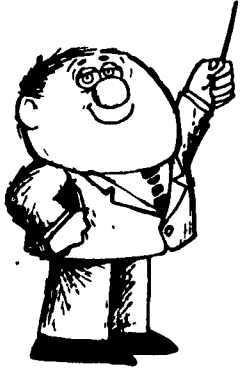
Tracy is currently living in Manheim, but hopes to relocate in or near Chester County. She was active in 4-H for nine years and has been a herdsman for Preston Newcomer at Hidden Farms Hols-teins, Mt. Joy.

She was also a four-year FFA member at Manheim Central High School receiving several awards and degrees, including the Keystone Degree. The Board would like to see Tracy's circuit expanded with new herds. With the new rate schedule, recruitment of new DHIA members should be accelerated.

Chester County DHIA - April 1994
Cows producing over 800 lbs. protein are:

Name	Breed	Age	Milk	Fat	Pro
Joseph & Sandra Lusby					
Beth	H	3-1	27,695	1031	866

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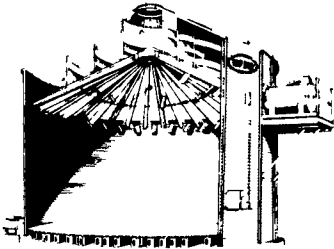


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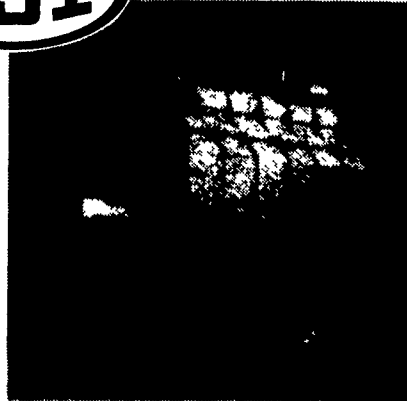
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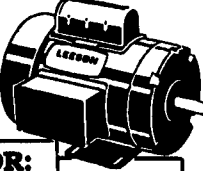
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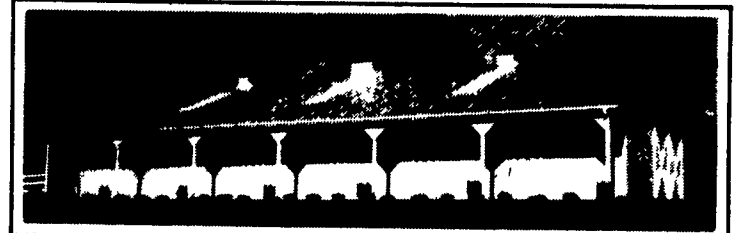
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