

Penn State Eliminates Sheep Programming

FRANKLIN (Venango Co.) — As a result of the College Futures Committee recommendations, Penn State Cooperative Extension has eliminated adult sheep programming from its educational agenda in all regions of the state except the west, according to Jeffrey T. Fowler, extension agent.

According to Fowler, this means that extension staff will be conducting programs to benefit the sheep industry only in Allegheny, Armstrong, Butler, Beaver, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Fayette, Forest, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, Warren, Washington, and Westmoreland counties.

As a result, Penn State has decided to conduct a survey of producers to determine future needs assessment regarding the sheep and wool program efforts.

The survey "will help us, the extension staff, better understand the current problems and concerns of sheep and wool producers like yourself, and therefore help you to better prepare for what lies ahead in the sheep and wool industry," according to a letter addressed to sheep and wool producers by the Venango County extension.

The Western Pennsylvania

Sheep Survey, in booklet form, includes 27 questions and one comment section, mailed to producers in sheep-producing counties in the western part of the state. The responses to the survey will be kept confidential. The results will be used, in summary form, for program planning purposes.

These results, in summary form,

will be shared with county extension staff, state extension program staff, and state extension administration, according to Fowler.

For more information about the survey, contact Fowler at Venango County Cooperative Extension, P.O. Box 468, Franklin, PA 16323, (814) 437-7607.

DHIA Installs Dairy Comp

ITHACA, N.Y. — Recently, two members of the Ithaca, N.Y.-based Northeast DHIA Dairy Management Technologies team travelled to Bermuda to install Dairy Comp 305 herd management software.

The Bermudian Government, in particular Government Veterinarian Dr. Susan Smith, has decided to begin tracking all 350 of the islands milking cows plus an additional 300 heifers through Dairy Comp 305.

"We are very impressed by what this software can do, and with the people we have spoken with at Northeast DHIA as we were evaluating the various programs," Dr. Smith said.

Currently in Bermuda there are no organized records services such as the Northeast Dairy Herd Improvement Association. Bermudian dairy farmers do not have access to things many DHIA members may take for granted; ME's, Sire information, Component testing, Somatic Cell testing, production information, and the ability to look back at historical trends in the herd.

The goal for these dairies is to be able to accurately evaluate management factors. This will help the dairy community to become more efficient and to increase profits, thereby remaining a viable part of the Bermudian economy.

Swiss Dairy Farmers



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down and figure that we started with nothing and where we are today, that's the only thing you can say, "We are blessed."

"Sure we are still broke all the time with no extra money to spend. But you look around where the money is, and I guess there is a reason for it."

"We work hard," Dennis adds. "We put in long hours. It's management and a little luck. Sometimes knowing the right people when you want to sell an animal helps."

"I just enjoy working with cows," Ronald concludes. "Being with them, milking them... And of course, we like to talk about them anytime."

Milk Bottle Collectors To Meet

BALLSTON SPA, N.Y. — The national convention of the national Association of Milk Bottle Collectors (NAMBC) will be held at the Holiday Inn June 2-5. Of special interest will be the auction of milk bottles of all types, signs, creamers, and other historic dairy memorabilia. The auction starts at 9 p.m. on Saturday night. All items will be sold, and a portion of the sales will go to support the national bottle museum. John Robinson, associate auctioneer for Robert Bair Auctioneers of Wrightsville, Pa., will be the guest auctioneer.

Other activities at the conven-

tion include all day swapping and buying of dairy antiques in the hotel guest rooms; displays of various collections in the display room; a postal sub-station with special cancellation on Saturday morning and the convention buffet dinner on Saturday evening.

Of special interest this year will be a representative from Stanpac, manufacturers of milk bottles, closures, and pogs, who will bring the members up to date on what is happening in the dairy industry relating to the "return to glass" movement. All activities are open to the public. For information, you may call Thomas F. Gallagher at (203) 227-5244.



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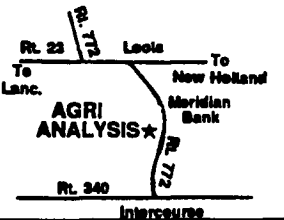
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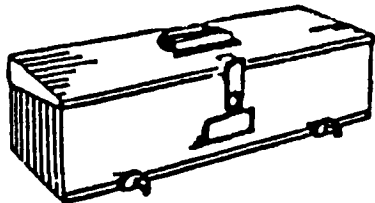
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