

Farm Calendar

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Grain Crop Field Day, Landisville Research Center, 1 p.m.-5 p.m.
Lancaster County Honey Producers meeting, Rainbow Apiaries, Hughes Farm, East Earl, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 22

Crop Residue Management Program, Hoss' Steak and Seafood House, York, 5 p.m.

Thursday, June 23

Butler County Holstein twilight meeting, 7 p.m.
Crop Residue Management Program, York extension office, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Pesticide container recycling, Mountain View Reclamation, Greencastle, repeats July 28, Aug. 25, and Nov. 10.

Friday, June 24

117th AGA annual meeting, Burlington, VT.

Saturday, June 25

Pa. Junior Holstein Association Convention, Pittsburgh, thru June 28.
Beaver-Lawrence Dairy Princess Pageant and Ice Cream Social, Westfield Grange, 7:30 p.m.
14th annual Hickory Ridge Antique Farm Show, Horace Potter Residence, Milford, Del., thru June 26.

Benefit Auction, Solanco Fairgrounds, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

'A Celebration of Quilts,' York College of Pa., 10 a.m.-5 p.m., thru June 26.

Sunday, June 26

Monday, June 27

Pa. Junior Judging Schools, Butler and Franklin counties, thru June 30.

On-Farm Composting Field Day,

Robert and Lois Keller Farm, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 28

Implementing On-Farm Composting Interagency Conference and Tour, Penn State Harrisburg, Middletown, thru June 29.

Pesticide recycling program, Oyl-er's Orchard, Gettysburg, also July 26, Aug. 23, Nov. 8.

Wednesday, June 29

Junior Judging School, Franklin County, June 30.

Thursday, June 30

Friday, July 1

5-Acre Corn Club contest deadline.

Lancaster County pesticide container recycling, Landis Spraying Service, Strasburg, repeats Aug. 3 and Sept. 2.

Field Day To Feature Practices For Reducing Herbicide Use In Corn, Steve Groff Farm, Buck, 9:30 a.m.-noon.

Saturday, July 2

Kutztown Folk Festival, Folk Festival Grounds, thru July 10.

Sunday, July 3

National Holstein Convention, Seattle, Wash., thru July 6.

Monday, July 4

Independence Day

Butler Fair, Butler, thru July 9.

Tuesday, July 5

Wednesday, July 6

Lancaster County pesticide container recycling, Gideon King, Kinzers, also Aug. 5 and Sept. 6.

Thursday, July 7

Penn State Weed Science Field Day, Landisville, 9 a.m.-noon.
Rockspring Research Farm Tour

Editor:

Throughout the past months, a controversial issue has arisen regarding milk and dairy products. Bovine somatotropin, or BST, has been made available to dairy farmers across the United States. This has caused many consumers to become concerned regarding the healthfulness of milk and dairy products. Serving as Maryland Dairy Princess I have encountered many concerned consumers and questions they have regarding the use of BST. Recently, at the college I attend, Western Maryland College, SEAC — our environmental group — has taken action to inform the student population of some information it has obtained regarding BST. Most no-

and Barbecue, Penn State Ag Progress Days site, Rockspring, 5:30-dark.

Friday, July 8

Weed Science Field Day, Penn State Rockspring, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Keystone Stud Ram and Ewe Show and Sale, State College Ag Arena, thru July 9.

Fawn Grove Fair, Fawn Grove, thru July 10.

Farm Forum

tably is the Consumer Warning flyer which states what you should know before you buy milk and dairy products. After reading the flyer, I became even more concerned; not because of the use of BST but because of the inaccuracy of the information presented.

One of the most important facts that consumers should be aware of is BST is a naturally produced hormone in cows. In a report released by Dr. David Barano, Professor, Department of Food Science, Cornell University, it states that milk from cows given supplemental BST contains no more BST than milk from cows not given the supplement. There are no differences in nutrient content (fat, protein, calcium, vitamins) or sensory characteristics (flavor, color) of milk from treated cows. The level of BST in milk remains the same. The extra BST is used by the cow.

Another issue of concern is the claim that BST can make you sick due to the increased amounts of bacteria in milk. Consumers need to realize that in American we have the highest standards for food products. Milk undergoes one of the highest and strictest processing procedures. The tests and processes that milk undergoes will not change. Farmers will still

have milk inspections, milk will still be tested, and will still undergo pasteurization — all processes that eliminate any harmful bacteria that may be present in milk.

Finally, the use of BST will not cause any environmental harm. Dr. Barbano states that the use of BST will reduce the amount of animal waste per unit of milk produced and will reduce the amount of feed required to produce a unit of milk. This is because the cow will more efficiently produce milk, thus leading to an environmental benefit.

Again, consumers should realize that the milk and dairy products they will be buying in the grocery will be safe and just as nutritious for them to drink. Regulatory and scientific bodies in at least twenty countries including the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, France, and Germany have authorized milk and meat from cows supplemented with BST as safe for people of all ages.

The dairy cow has been a source of nutrition for over 11,000 years. Her wholesome and nutritious product have nourished and sustained life for millions of humans. The cow is the greatest producer of calcium and phosphorus, elements so essential for our existence. She is the producer of nature's most perfect food.

Dawn M. Downey
Maryland Dairy Princess



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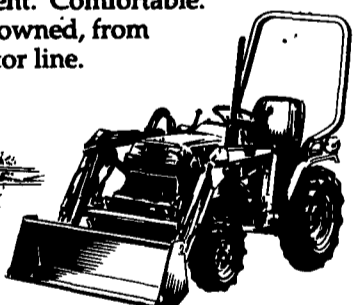


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