

Plan To Enter The Next Dairy Of Distinction Program

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) — The Northeast Dairy Farm Beautification Program, Inc., is prepared to receive applications for the 1995 awards. This program rewards clean, well-kept farmsteads to help with consumer acceptance of dairy products in the store.

State President Dan Baker, dairyman from Covington, Tioga County, said the program has been well-received, and officers look forward to an excellent program again next year.

"There are plenty of good looking dairy farms out there that have not been judged," Baker said. "And even those who have entered the selection process in the past years without success should enter again."

The program provides rewards of recognition to producers who maintain attractive production sites. This recognition benefits the entire dairy industry, as well as individual dairy farmers. Not only does the favorable publicity generated by the program in the general press help bring modern farm practices to the attention of urban people, farmers use the distinction to promote their own operation or seek and hire farm labor.

Paul Nichols, the secretary for

the Pennsylvania program, said applications may be sent to him any time after January 1, 1994. Deadline for applications is April 15. Judging is completed in May and is based on the roadside appearance of buildings, grounds, and surroundings. The states are divided into districts, and a local committee oversees the program in each district.

A team of judges designated by the local committee visits each farm and uses a score sheet to rate each farm. In Pennsylvania, in addition to this team of judges, the sanitarian for the farm's cooperative or dealer-handler is asked to be part of the judging process.

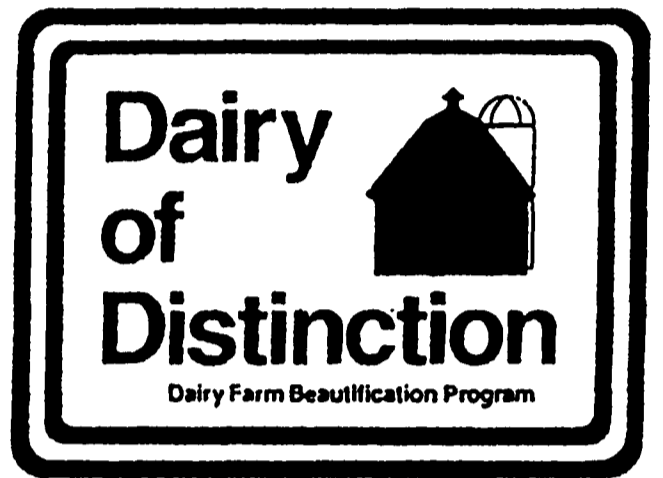
"One of the things I always tell people is that even though they may not now have the most fancy place, they can work toward the principles of the Dairy of Distinction program," Nichols said. "By doing this, they work toward a goal that encourages consumers to use more dairy products."

Winners receive a colorful, 18x24-inch Dairy of Distinction sign to be placed at the entrance to the farmstead. In addition, as in past years, an 11x14-inch color portrait of the farm will be given by *Lancaster Farming* to each winning farm in the Pennsylvania program.



This beautiful Dairy of Distinction was named in 1994 and is owned by Glenn and Bernice Myers at Newburg. Farms that look attractive help to make a good impression for consumers who buy dairy products.

"As a dairy farmer, you work hard all year long, taking care of your farm," said Helen Fountain, program executive secretary. "In addition to managing your herd, there are lawns to mow, flowers to plant, and overall maintenance to keep farm buildings looking great. You deserve to be recognized for all the hard work, dedication and



Application For Dairy Of Distinction Farm Beautification Recognition

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Cooperative or Dealer-Handler: _____

Location (driving directions for judging team): _____

County:

I hereby apply to the Northeast Dairy Farm Beautification committee to have my dairy scored in accordance with the rules of the program for the purpose of obtaining a DAIRY OF DISTINCTION sign to be displayed on my premises. (No producer will be charged with scoring or sign expense).

Signature of Owner or Operator

Return coupon by April 15, 1995. to: *Northeast Dairy Farm Beautification Program*, c/o your area secretary. **PENNSYLVANIA**, Paul Nichols, ADADC, Tower Business Bldg., 239 Schuyler Ave., Kingston, PA 18704; **NEW JERSEY**, August Kinispel, RD1, Box 325, Pittstown, NJ; **NEW YORK**, Evelyn Lightfoote, 3053 Depew Rd., Stanley, NY 1461.

pride you put into your farmstead.

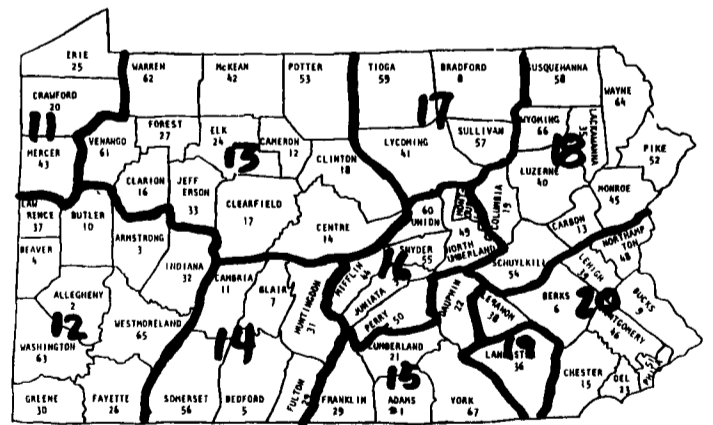
"It's time you and your farm received some recognition for your hard work. The coveted Dairy of Distinction award will give you that recognition. In addition, your attractive farm will enhance consumer confidence in the wholesomeness of milk, thereby stimulating milk sales and encourage public support for the dairy industry."

Active dairy farms in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania are eligible to apply for the award. Criteria for Dairy of Distinction awards include clean and attractively finished buildings; neat landscaping, ditches, roads and

lands; and well-maintained fences. Cleanliness of animals, barnyard, feed areas, as well as manure management, are also taken into consideration.

Applications are available from each state's program secretary or local cooperative extension. In New York, contact Carol Weddle, New York, Holstein Assn., 957 Mitchell St., Box 190, Ithaca, N.Y. 14851. In New Jersey, contact August Kinispel, RD 1, Box 325, Pittstown, N.J. 08867.

In Pennsylvania, you may contact Paul Nichols, American Dairy Association/Dairy Council, Tower Business Building, 239 Schuyler Ave., Kingstown, PA 18704.

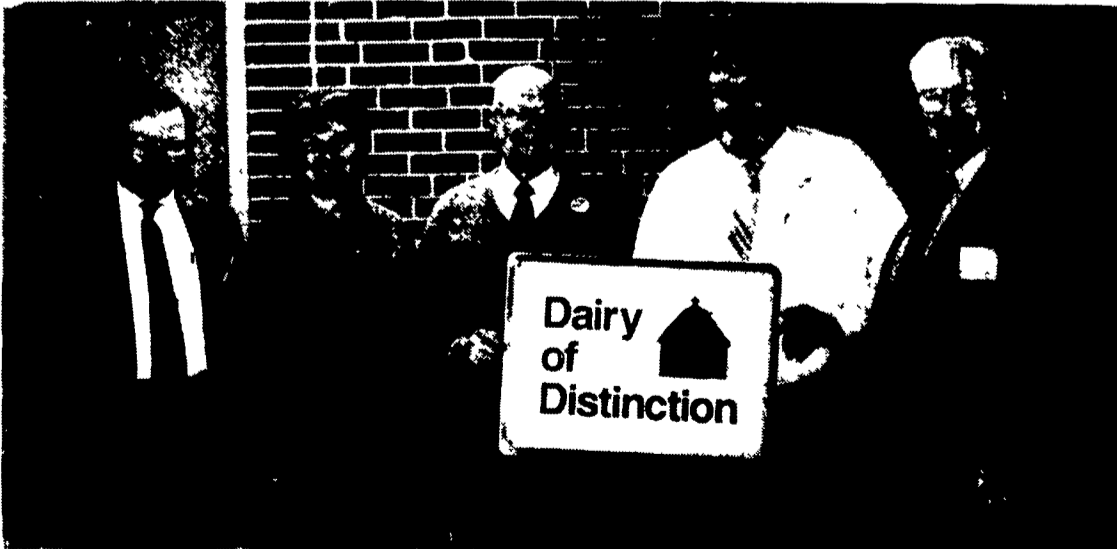


Pennsylvania Districts

Pennsylvania is divided into ten districts. Approximately 10 Dairy of Distinction awards will be made each year in each district. There is no cost to the applicant.

Pennsylvania area chairpersons are: District 11, Leslie Firth; District 12, Wally Jackson; District 13, Susan DuJour; District 14, Janet and David Hileman; District 15, Norman Coons; District 16, Robert and Bernice Gable; District 17, Larue Thomas; District 18, Allen Roszel; District 19, Lisa Risser; and District 20, Russell Rooks.

As a winner, you will receive a certificate and a nice metal sign to install at the end of your farm lane. In addition, LANCASTER FARMING will present a color farm portrait print to each of this year's winners in Pennsylvania. If your farm is a winner, be sure you or your district committee takes a color photograph of your farm and sends the negative and proof to LANCASTER FARMING in time for the awards ceremony.



Officers of the Pennsylvania Dairy of Distinction program were reelected at the annual meeting in January. They are, left to right, Steve Spencer, advisor; Donna Gearhart, treasurer; Russ Rooks, vice president; Dan Baker, president; and Paul Nichols, secretary.