

## Canadian Farmers Visit

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These facts were all outlined by Earl Geib, president, when a much larger group of visitors (two tour busses with 84 adult passengers) came from a much greater distance (Western Ontario, Canada) for a Manheim Farm Show visit Tuesday afternoon.

John Stafford, from Wroxeter, Ontario, said the group included farm members and delegates from the 3,800 member Gay Lea Foods Co-operative. The cooperative markets the members' milk and did \$189 million of product sales last year and is run by a nine member board of directors. Stafford is chairman of the board. Each share of stock that is sold in the cooperative must be approved by this board to insure that individuals or organizations that buy stock are within the dairy industry and do not want to take over the cooperative outside of agriculture.

David Hawthorn, a dairyman with 40 cows at home in the Kitchener area, said he did not see much difference in dairy farming here and at home. "Everyone is growing his own feed and trying to get as much milk as possible," Hawthorn said. "Except you fellows grow a better corn crop and get four cuttings of alfalfa while we get two (cuttings). We can't do that sort of thing."

Hawthorn explained that their milk marketing board set the price of their quotas around the demand

for milk and the demand to buy or sell quotas. During the recent GATT talks the uncertainty caused quota prices to go down as much as \$100. But now people are buying quotas again so the price has partly recovered.

However, Hawthorn did not see the quota system as much different than the base system used in the US. "It costs you to put on cows and produce extra milk to develop base just as quotas are a cost of doing business to us," Hawthorn said. "With a quota you have the right to ship that much milk, but you must ship that milk to keep your quota. Otherwise you lose it. You don't own the quota; you own the right to ship milk. You can sell quota, but you have no idea what it will be worth at the time in the future when you may want to sell it."

In addition, the the Manheim show, the Canadian tour visited Atlantic Breeders and Hanover Farms. They also were served several smorgasboard meals a day while they were in Lancaster County. But the real pleasure of the trip that was expressed was the rapport that was immediately built between Manheim farmers and Canadian farmers.

"We take a trip to get away from the cows," Hawthorn said. "But then as soon as possible we find a dairy farmer here and start to talk cows. I guess that is the way it is in any business when you really enjoy what your are doing."



Earl Geib greets the Canadian visitors to the Manheim Farm Show.



Two buses brought 84 Canadian farmers to visit the Manheim Farm Show on Tuesday. Farmers on both sides of the border enjoyed the time together.



Jay Mylin leads a small group through the cattle barns.

## Jackpot Steer Contest At Big E

W. SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — The 1994 Jackpot Steer Contest at The Big E took place in Mallary Arena Sunday evening, September 25. The jackpot for the contest came from money put into the pot by each of the contestants. The pot was then split with seventy percent going to the grand champion and the remaining thirty percent going to the reserve grand champion.

Steve Wiemer, a beef producer from South Dakota, placed the forty steers that entered the showing. The steers were divided by weight into lightweight, mediumweight and heavyweight

groups of about equal numbers. The weights on the steers ranged from 900 pounds to 1,435 pounds.

The grand champion steer was a 1,325-pound crossbred shown by Robert Faber of Pittstown, N.J. Reserve champion steer was a 1,175-pound crossbred exhibited by David Newpher of Fleetwood, Pa.

Results of the Jackpot Steer Contest at The Big E are listed by class.

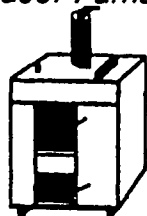
**Lightweight:** 1 Troy Larry Gelsinger, 2 Katie Alward, 3 Carne Hogan  
**Mediumweight:** 1 David Newpher, 2 Tiffany D Jespersen, 3 Andrew Rodgers  
**Heavyweight:** 1 Robert Faber, 2 Katie Alward, 3 Nick Faber

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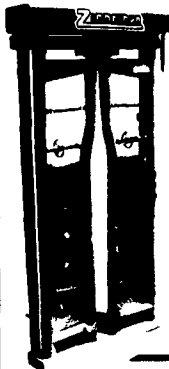
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