

Lancaster Farming

Industry Works To Expand Dairy-MAP Program

Editor's Note: A group of dairy industry leaders from farm organizations, private industry firms, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, and Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences and Penn State's Extension Service is cooperating to give one voice to a common goal. This goal is to help dairy farms overcome the growing economic pressures that threaten the existence of the dairy industry as we know it in Pennsylvania.

To this end, those leaders working with the Dairy-MAP program as one method to help dairy farmers become better managers met at Penn State on Monday. The following report is a summary of the discussions at this meeting. If you have questions about the Dairy-MAP program or this effort to give a united voice to Pennsylvania's dairy industry, you may call any of the participating industry leaders, your local county agent's office, or this editor at (717) 394-3047. If we don't know the answer to your question, we'll find someone who does know the answer.

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Representatives from various farm organizations and private industry firms are working together with dairy producers and Penn State personnel to expand and strengthen a Penn State Cooperative Extension program called Dairy-MAP (Management and Profitability).

This coalition was formed at the First Forum early in June, when virtually all segments of Pennsylvania's dairy industry formed a partnership with Penn State cooperative Extension and gave voice to a common goal—to increase the profitability of Pennsylvania dairy businesses through enhanced awareness and application of management technologies. The first step toward this goal is to expand Dairy-MAP, a vehicle to provide advanced business education for more of Pennsylvania's dairy farm managers.

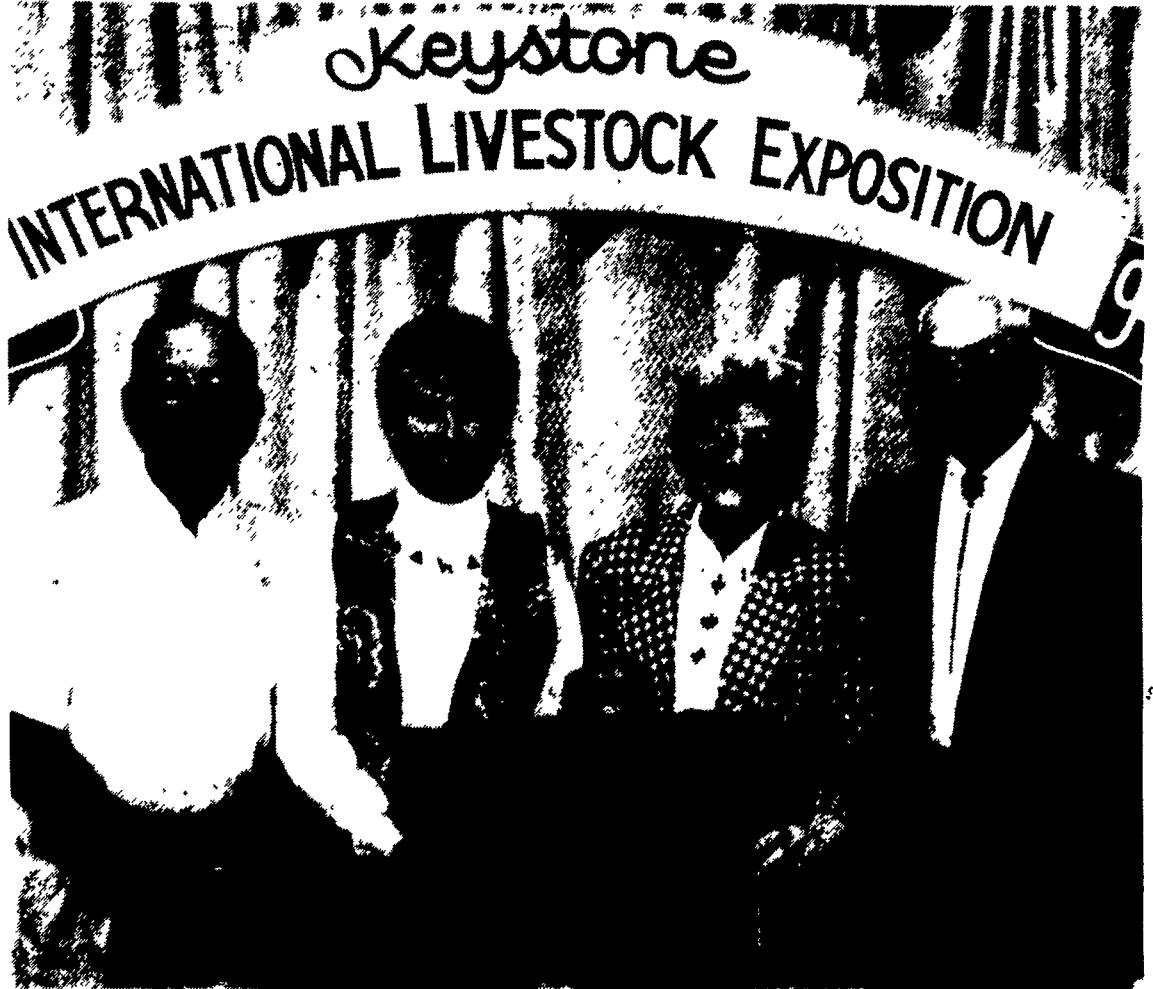
At an organizational meeting at University Park on October 10, the group met to begin moving the expansion process from concept

to reality, including formation of an overall advisory council and various committees.

The Advisory Council brings together many different viewpoints to ensure a well-balanced representation of ideas and interests to help strengthen the Dairy-MAP Program.

The Promotion Committee is faced with the challenging task of showing a diverse dairy industry what Dairy-MAP is, how the program is being offered, and how agribusiness people can help with the expanded program. This com-

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Receiving recognition for their many years of service to the Polled Herford breed are Joe and Louise Midla, Marianna, left, and Eugene and Delores Stockdale, Dayton. The Genetic Focus Standard of Productivity Polled Hereford Show at KILE was dedicated to them for their work that started in the 1950s. Now grandchildren are showing cattle. See KILE stories and show results throughout this issue.

Fencing Project Volunteers Help Improve Water Quality

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
DONEGAL SPRINGS (Lancaster Co.) — Years ago, Tom Moore remembers how you could fish for native brown trout in Donegal Creek, near the one-room schoolhouse owned by the Donegal Presbyterian Church.

Those days could come back, he reminded those who attended an open house for visitors to the stream fencing project on the Lester Hursh dairy farm on Thursday. Work done to install streambank fencing could very well bring back trout fishing in Donegal Creek, given time.

About 20 people, including conservation technicians from the local district and fish and game commission representatives in addition to farmers, were on hand to see how streambank fencing was effective in restoring the natural beauty and balance to the creek, while still allowing cattle grazing

near the site. Construction of the project, using the services of the Donegal Fish and Conservation Association and the Lancaster Streambank Fencing Work Group (of which Moore is coordinator), began on August 13 of this year. Eleven vol-

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Penn State Extension Agents Receive National Awards

CASPER, Wyoming — Members of Penn State University's Cooperative Extension staff are among agents in the United States who received Achievement and Distinguished Service Awards at the recent annual meeting of the National Association of County Agricultural Agents.

Achievement awards went to James Cowden, Warren County Extension Director; and Susan Dunn, Clearfield and Jefferson Counties Extension Agent.

Those honored for Distinguished Service were Raymond Kennerknecht, Crawford County Extension Agent; Jeffrey Mizer,

Columbia and Montour Counties Extension Agent; and William Shuffstall, Clearfield and Jefferson Counties Extension Director.

The awards program highlighted the annual meeting where over 2,100 Extension agents and guests convened September 25-29 to review their responsibilities as educators and attend professional improvement workshops. Cowden is responsible for the agriculture, youth and community programs in Warren County. He also conducts water quality programs in several northwestern Pennsylvania counties. A program on ground water protec-

tion reached over one thousand private well or spring owners, pesticide applicators, and school students. Nearly seventy percent of those attending the awareness programs plan to protect their water supplies now and in the future.

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Jeffrey Mizer



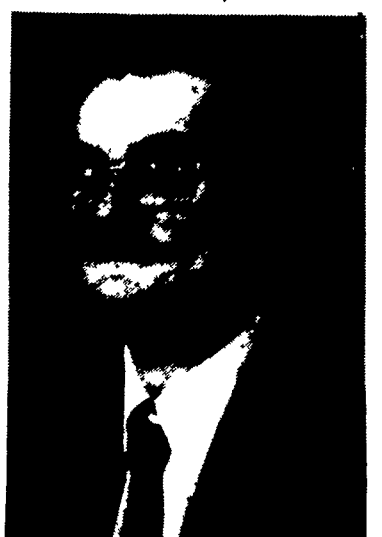
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