

York DHIA Awards Presented

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Blue Knoll Farms claimed top milk honors with "Supreme," producing a 305-day record of 35,434 milk. The farm's "Missy" earned the Fetrow brothers a second individual award for her high 305-day protein production of 1123 pounds. William Myers won the high 305-day fat award with his herd member "June," finishing with 1472 pounds fat.

Honors for high lifetime production went to cow No. 19 in the herd of Melvin Lehr, East Berlin, with a nine-lactation total of 268,178 pounds of milk. Lifetime fat production award was won by Wayne Myers, Dover, for the 9852-fat-pounds produced in nine lactations by herd member Pam.

Two county dairy producers were elected to the York DHIA board of directors. Chosen to fill the three-year-terms were Don Avery and Keith Eisenhart. Neil McCullough, Cumberland County, regional director to the state DHIA board, noted in his report during the business session that producers can and have the right to seek the best production testing service they can find. He urged members to contact their board members if their DHIA service needs are not being adequately met.

Featured speaker was David Slusser, executive director of the Pennsylvania herd testing cooperative, who spoke about the constant change in the dairy industry and the need for DHIA to respond to those changes.

Slusser noted that DHIA, like most dairy farms, has had to tighten its economic belt and become more efficient. To reflect the actual

costs of testing, fees have recently been increased to reduce the \$400,000 annual deficit which was burdening the cooperative.

"We had hoped to avoid a fee adjustment and feel bad about that, but we do feel good about getting the organization into the black," said Slusser.

Bulk of the deficit was coming from the prior fees on two-times-daily testing structure. Fees on 2-X testing were running about 21-cents per cow behind the actual cost of servicing the herds. Most of the recent increase, Slusser affirmed, was on 2-X test fees, which are now at a more equitable level to cover the actual cost of testing.

Pa. DHIA is also encouraging 2-X clients to move to a one-time-daily test program, which allows field technicians to handle more herds and increase their pay levels. With the fee increases falling primarily on 2-X herds, many herds are expected to make the switch to one-time-monthly DHIA technician visits.

"AM/PM testing is just as or more efficient than 2-X testing," says Slusser, who added that testing, like many things, is not an exact sci-

ence. "We are trying to be as accurate and as efficient as possible."

Both testing lab and employee costs have been reduced in recent efficiency moves by the state DHIA program. County fee and pay structures are now more uniform under the state consolidation, reducing the state's "total management nightmare" of prior years when each county had its own pro-

gram, according to Slusser. Several more counties have recently merged into the combined state program, with one still to complete the process.

Slusser acknowledged that the year has been "real challenging" since he joined the state DHIA in January as executive director, after 23 years of operating his own dairy herd. However, membership

numbers are growing at a four-to-one ratio, with more than 50 herds added to the testing program in recent months and only about ten dropped. Cow numbers are likewise inching upward, as herds on test continue to increase in size.

"Pennsylvania DHIA cares and is changing fast," reflected Slusser, concluding, "And, there are more changes to come."

Pesticide Certification Exam Set

HONESDALE (Wayne Co.) — Pesticide certification examinations will be given at the Penn State Cooperative Extension, Wayne County "North" office meeting room, Courthouse, Honesdale, on Tuesday, Dec. 6, starting at 8:30 a.m. and ending at noon.

The exam is open to anyone wishing to become certified as private, commercial, or public applicators. Private applicators are those who are farming and applying restricted-use pesticides to their own crops. Commercial applicators are those who are applying pesticides to property of other people.

The examination is a pass-fail, open book, proctored test. Examination fees are nonrefundable. The following fees, with payment made in advance, shall be charged: private applicator exams are free and commercial applicator's core examination is \$50 plus \$10 for each category examination.

Testing is also available on working Monday mornings at the

Pa. Department of Agriculture office on Route 92 just south of Tunkhannock.

For examination registration or additional information, call the Penn State Cooperative Extension, Wayne County office, at (717) 253-5970, ext. 239 or the Department of Agriculture in Tunkhannock at (717) 836-2181.

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Mean	46.3 Bu/A	60.0 Bu/A
Average yield advantage: 6.6 Bu/A		

1993 MD Soybean Variety Tests

	Clarksville	Queenstown			Quantico	
		Full Season	Double Conv.	Crop Drill	Full Season	Double Crop
Hoffman 7403	54.8	45.6	39.4	40.5	40.7	48.2
Mean	45.7	44.7	39.8	38.2	39.1	43.0
Average yield advantage: 3.1 Bu/A						

1993 Delaware Variety Performance Summary

	Selbyville, DE
Hoffman 7484	80.1 Bu/A
Average	66.7 Bu/A
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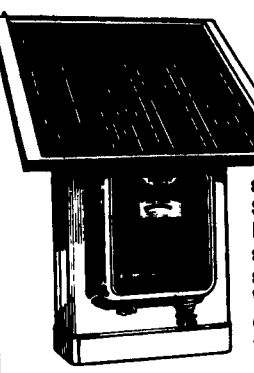
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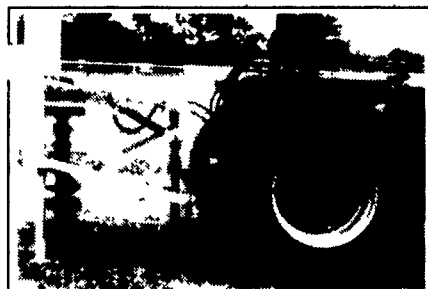
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