

## Practical Information Stressed At Chester Dairy Day

**VERNON ACHENBACH JR.**  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
GUTHRIESVILLE (Chester Co.) — Chester County held its dairy day program Wednesday at the East Brandywine Firehall with speakers discussing nuts and bolts advise for managing dairy herds.

About 80 people attended the event, with two key speakers from Penn State University and another speaker a private dairy consultant.

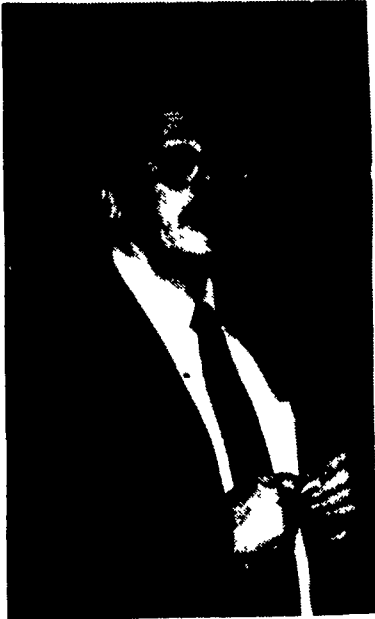
While much of what was said has been either published or presented previously or through other forums, each speaker narrowed down several key points about each of their topics that they wanted the dairy producers to consider in their own operations.

Dr. A.J. "Jud" Heinrichs, associate professor of dairy and animal science at Penn State University's College of Agricultural Sciences; Dr. Robert E. Graves, professor of agricultural and biological engineering at Penn State; and Dr. Brian Perkins, a Vermont-based independent dairy consultant who works throughout the New England states, were the speakers.

The program was sponsored by Chester County Cooperative Extension, CoreStates/Hamilton Bank, and Meridian Bank.

In the morning session Heinrichs discussed the care and feeding strategies for raising and breeding young heifers through their first calving.

Some of the key points Heinrichs discussed were keeping the environment clean and healthy, but also looking realistically at raising the heifers to maximize their genetic potential.



**Dr. Jud Heinrichs**  
PSU Associate Professor  
Dairy, Animal Science

He discussed the fact that the mammary system grows at a pace that outspeeds development of the rest of the young heifer by as much as 3.5:1, when it is from 3- to 9-months-old.

From birth to 2 months, the mammary system develops at a rate of 1.6:1, he said, and at a rate of 1.5:1 from 10 to 12 months.

This means that the most impact a producer can have on developing a strong, healthy mammary system is during the care and feeding while the heifer calf is from 3- to 9-months-old.

It is very important to understand that overfeeding at this age can result in fatty tissue developing in the mammary and thwart

proper mammary tissue development.

According to Heinrichs, dairy cattle raisers should not push their young heifers before they are eight


months old. He said that after that age, producers can "push" the heifers with extra protein, but not extra energy.

The consideration is that the


protein can be used to build growing tissue, while extra, unused energy will be deposited as fatty tissue, and can actually hinder

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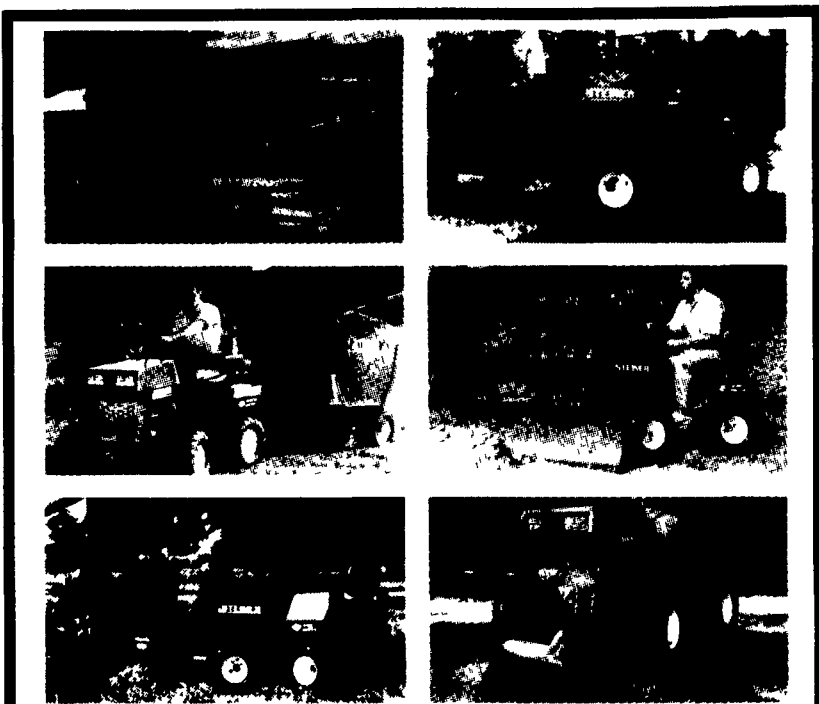
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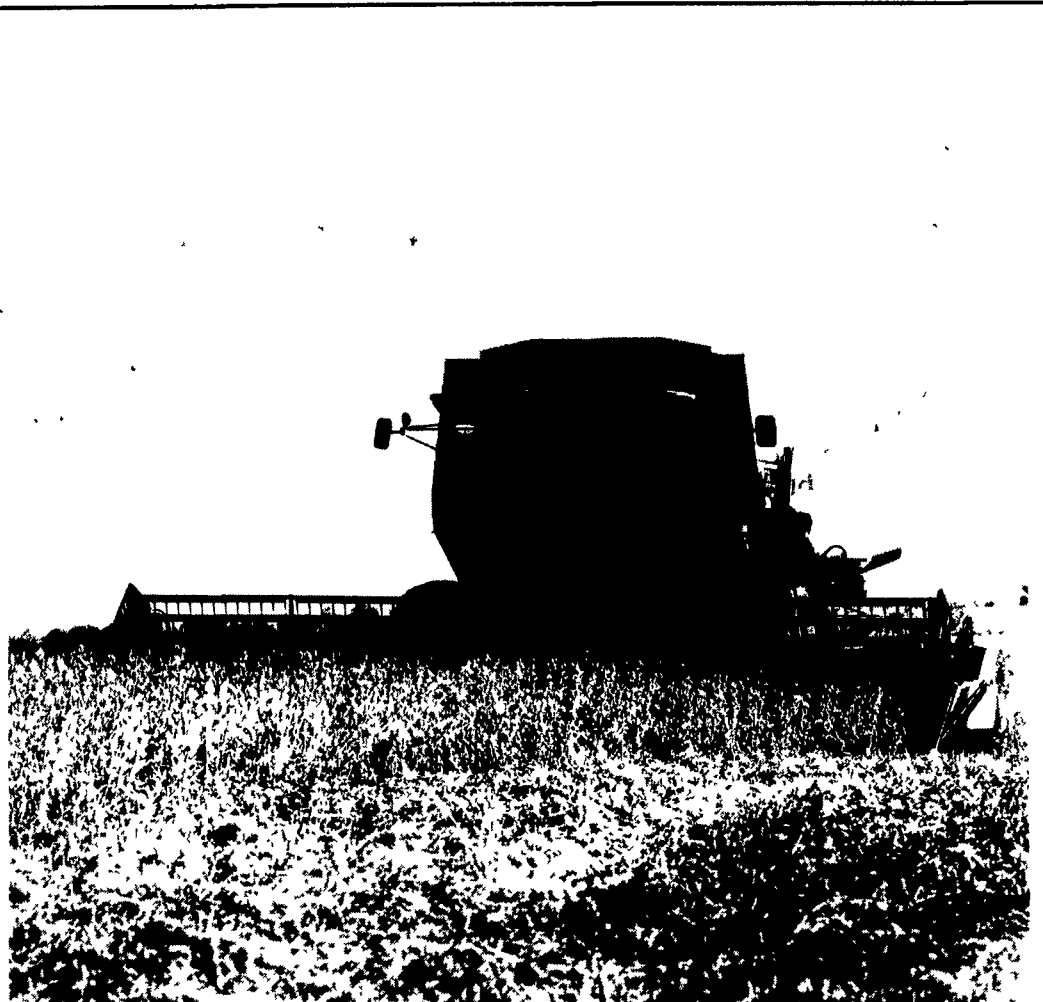
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