

BLUE BALL (Lancaster Co.) — The Blue Ball National Bank ag seminar featured a number of speakers with good ideas about farming. These speakers included Timothy Clemens, Hatfield consumer relations officer; James Myer, Lititz beef farmer; Dr. Darcie Stolz, Strasburg veterinarian; Don Robinson, Lancaster Soil Conservation District manager, and Louis Moore, Penn State ag economics professor.

Stolz gave the definition of health and bio security as the management practices that protect the herd from entry of new disease and minimize the adverse effects of disease in the herd. She said you need to control the new arrivals on the farm and curb farm traffic, wild birds, the movement of animals, rodents, pets, people, and equipment on the farm.

In addition, you need preventative medicine, and you need to maintain high disease resistance and good meat and milk quality. "You want to focus on control," Stolz said. "You want your herd to 'PURR'; that is, you want to pay attention to production, udder health, reproduction, and

replacements.

"For every pound increase in the peak production of a dairy cow, you increase her total production by 250 pounds for the lactation. On a 40 cow herd that translates into 10,000 pounds of increased production over those lactations. At \$12.50 milk, that is an increase of profits of \$1,250."

Conversely, Stolz said an increase of only two SCC points will decrease production by three pounds per cow per day and that translates into \$5,400 lost in the 40 cow herd. She said the most important information you obtain from DHIA records is the SCC count.

Robinson gave an inspirational talk on how to pass on a farm heritage. He said that the caption under the now famous poster of two little boys dressed as farmers which says, "You been farmin' long?" might well read, "Are you going to be farming long?"

"Are our farm children a genesis?" Robinson asked. "As your children go, so goes your farm. As the nation's farm children go, so goes agriculture." He said that pride with a small "p" was the satisfaction of a job well done as was part



At the Blue Ball National Bank ag seminar are, from left, Melvin Pankuch, president/CEO; Don Robinson, manager, Lancaster Conservation District; Dr. Darcie Stolz, VMD, Strasburg; Louis Moore, Penn State ag economics professor, and Kenneth Overly, vice president.

of the farming heritage of "proud to be a farmer."

"History is something that is past," Robinson said. "A heritage is alive, something passed on. Heritage with no future is history."

Robinson said the future of agriculture is threatened most by farms

with no one to take over or by situations where there is no heritage to pass on. "How many farms are sold when a child is eager and ready to take over?" Robinson asked rhetorically. "Not many. I know we can't force children to stay. But when children are involved in decision-making, they are more likely to want to stay. "Don't wait to give respect, responsibility and resources to

your children. Start small, plan to increase involvement as the child matures. Teach the child well and then let the child try.

Robinson said children should get involved in record keeping. He said you can't pass on a way of life unless you also pass on a business.

"You send a message to your children with deed restrictions and implementation of conservation

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