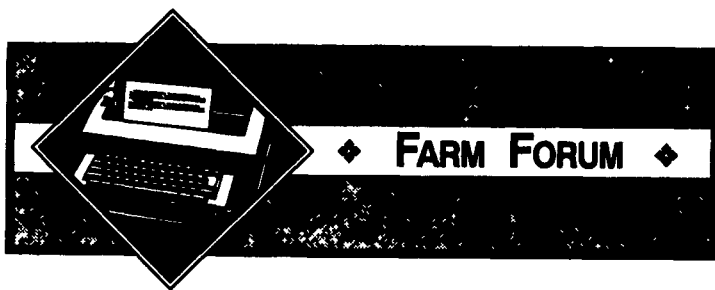


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FARM FORUM

(Continued from Page A10)

that are the most productive. Pennsylvanians for the Responsible Use of Animals (PRUA) sponsors such programs as the Code of Ethics for animal handling, the "I Care" initiative for young animal handlers to raise their awareness of humane animal care and other educational projects to demonstrate that the management practices of livestock producers are no accident. Moreover, livestock producers practice proper animal care because inhumane practices are morally repugnant to them.

This is only one example of the erroneous statements that were made in the article.

As a defender of animal agriculture, PRUA has responded to Ms. Diantoniis' article by sending a letter to the editor of *Apprise* magazine. (*Apprise* is the publication for WITF-TV and radio, the public broadcasting network for central Pennsylvania.) While the damage has been done by her article, PRUA hopes to correct the situation so that *Apprise* readers are given the truth about our industry.

Many members of the animal rights movement have declared war on meat consumption. But this is only one aspect of their "agenda." They also target the elimination of animal use in biomedical research, entertainment, personal companionship and sport.

Members of PRUA, which consists of 17 Pennsylvania groups and associations, affiliated organizations and hundreds of individuals, have banded together to fight the misconceptions, myths and misinformation being spread by individuals like Ms. Diantoniis.

PRUA works to maintain our right to continue to utilize animals in our daily lives. We support the humane treatment of animals and strongly oppose those who seek to end man's use of animals through acts of terrorism, misinformation and intimidation. Furthermore, PRUA's programs provide information, education and support for endangered industries and animal users. PRUA encourages individuals who are concerned about their livelihood or who simply enjoy the companionship provided by a pet to become a member of our growing family. To learn more about PRUA or to become a member write to: PRUA, P.O. Box 61, Elizabethtown, PA 17022.

Ken Brandt
Executive Director PRUA

Editor,

There is a light at the end of the tunnel and the tunnel is getting shorter for dairy farms! In the past, the number of farms and the separation of numbers and ages of farmers kept federal orders pricing to suit the many handlers. Now the last report from Market Administration shows the trend of just who is going to be in charge. The num-

ber of farmers, their ability to group, their power in producing large quantities of quality milk — hey, come on, there is power in numbers! Intelligence, integrity, initiative, perseverance and common sense, are all good ways to describe the very few, few powerful dairy farms, that are left. Federal orders have the lowest number of dairies in history! Federal orders are started by farmers and can be ended by farmers, by majority vote.

So just like the good witch said you had the power to go home all the time you just didn't know you had it! There's no place like home. So don't depend on that big balloon to take you anywhere or do anything for you. You must do it for yourself. Stand strong behind your Constitution and Bill of Rights. Say, "I am an American Farmer, I deserve to vote as I choose and if I choose not to vote that's OK too! But untie my right to vote as an individual. That's against the law of the land, that's what we as American Farmers deserve."

Peter A. Seman
Thompson

**A LESSON
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that producers using the product need to look at each cow, keep them healthy and in good body condition, and actually they need about 5 percent extra feed (all feeds, not just top dressing grain).

No one saw any relationship to mastitis and BST, except that BST is not a cure for mastitis. Snavelly said he doesn't use it with cows with a high somatic cell count; Drager said he just saw that infected cows he injected kept the infection.

Sammons said he actually saw some happy farmers this past year because of BST. He said smiling farmers is something he hasn't been seeing for the past four or five years.

As far as a glut of milk on the market causing lower prices, Sammons said that myth should be debunked. He said that national milk production increases attributed to BST are insignificant.

The real increase in milk production has come from the industry wide use of calf hutches, which has reduced calf mortality significantly, Sammons said, down to

about 10 percent from 25 percent or more. More heifer calves surviving to replace or expand the milking herds have more to do with milk production increases than BST, he said.

"BST (represents) less than 1 percent of the (milk production) increase across the country. It doesn't work on every farm," he said. Further, he said 55 percent of those using BST are those with herds of fewer than 100 cows.

The bigger herds don't have the intimacy with their animals to keep on top of the individual cow health. In order to do what the smaller producer can do with BST, the large operations would lose the efficiency advantage of large scale and few employees.

In other presentations, Albert Murry, LVNB president and CEO of the bank, discussed what lenders expect from borrowers; Charlie Parrott, LVNB vice president and business development officer talked about methods for passing on a family farm; and H. Louis Moore, PSU professor gave his economic outlook.

MARCH 15, 1995 • LANCASTER, PA



Farms cannot compete without productive employees. Managing these employees can be much more challenging than managing animals."

Dr. Charles E. Gardner, D.V.M.

The Speakers Will Be:

- **Dr. Charles E. Gardner, D.V.M.** - Mission Statement and Job Descriptions
- **Mr. Dale VanErden, Dairy Farm Owner** - Bring the employees into the team for greater success.
- **Mr. Steve & Joe Graybeal, Dairy Farm Partners** - Creative compensation of employees that works & motivates.

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- Teach you how to write job descriptions that you can use to hire and evaluate employees
- Empower you by helping create a mission statement that will guide all future decisions
- Open new creative ways to tie employee pay to performance
- Emphasize ways to keep employees long term

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CENTRURION	111%
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DK 125	111%
APOLLO SUPREME	110%
DK 135	109%
ALFAGRAZE	108%
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