

Regional Dairy Days Being Held

BIRD-IN-HAND (Lancaster Co.) — Pennfiled dairy days are being held throughout Pennsylvania and Maryland during January and February. Dairy farmer customers with quilifying production are being honored and many nutritional and herd health topics are being discussed.

At the Good 'N Plenty Restaurant, Thursday, Dr. Randy Shaver, dairy extension specialist from the University of Wisconsin at Madison presented ideas about how to feed high producing cows economically.

"The big difference in high producing cows and herds over others is the ability to have a high intake level of feed," Shaver said. "This is so, because it is the amount of protein and energy the cow takes in that drives production and body conditioning.

"In rumen digestion, the little bacteria produce acids that really stimulate milk sugar that stimulates milk fat production. Those bacteria produce the main and the most economical source of amino acids. As we look to the future and

high production, we look toward feeding the rumen bacteria. Maintaining a health rumen and maintaining good output of energy and protein from the rumen bugs is the cheapest source of nutrients for those high producing cows.

"I always like to look at starch, degradable soluble protein to try to optimize the output of the rumen bugs," Snyder said.

Snyder said that a cow that is milking 100 lbs. per day will spend four hours each day eating and 7 or 8 hours chewing her cud. Most of the cud chewing is done at night. Not only does cud chewing rewet the bolus that is regurgitated it also produces a buffer that is important to rumen health.

Dr. Timothy Snyder, manager of dairy nutrition for Pennfield said that while dairy farming is not easy, the company tries to help make it a little easier. "Although I would point out that if you through in good forages, it makes it a lot easier for us to help you take away a lot of milk."

Snyder illustrated some of the feeding programs they produce for

dairy farmers. These programs are changed according to production level. And he said the best grains to use depends on the types of forages and the number of times you are feeding your cows each day. If you slug feed two time per day, the ration would favor ear corn to bring along some of the cob to reduce the quickly fermenting material. If you are feeding many times per day, or with TMR, the more quickly fermented starch in shelled corn may be more appropriate. The main thing is to match the grain source to the forages on the farm.

Pennfields newest production equipment to produce their trade-named "Super Flake" is up and test running. According to Don Mahlandt, manager, dairy and livestock feed sales, the two big crimpers and the conditioning unit are installed. With the old steam-rolled process, the grains of corn were process-flattened to dime or quarter size. With the new flaking machines the grain will roll out completely flat to the size of a quarter. The further processing is done to get the most response from the dairy cows.



Speakers at Pennfield Dairy Days are Dr. Randy Shaver, left, and Dr. Timothy Snyder.

New Ag Secretary Nominee

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has announced his choices of people to fill 13 of the 18 department- and cabinet-level positions he is to select.

The governor's nominees must then be confirmed by the state Senate.

"Most (of the positions) have been filled," Taylor said. "The nominations have been sent to the Senate. The Senate has been holding hearings. Many (of the selections) have been approved by committees. I don't think any have been confirmed by full Senate," Taylor said.

According to Taylor, the next announcement of a selection for an administration department head should be the agriculture secretary, although Taylor said he could not know when that will be.

According to Taylor, the governor and the transition team want to make sure they have the best possible person to lead the department.

"I'm sure, in this particular post, as with the others, the governor is wanting to take his time to consider the various candidates and make his choice," Taylor said. "In the meantime, the day-to-day operation (of the agriculture department) is going on as usual under an acting secretary."

Although not mentioned by Taylor, the new secretary will have to have, or quickly get, an understanding of the various duties, agencies, and programs that the department has had, lost, changed, or developed during the past administration.

Also, whomever is selected will have to be able to guide the department well in adopting new responsibilities which have been either added under new laws, or which are expected to come with the governor's proposed restructuring of the state Department of Environmental Resources.

Among those responsibilities is the administration of the state's Nutrient Management Act, which was made into law early last summer by former Gov. Robert Casey.

A timetable has been set by law for the law to take effect and for regulations to be made and approved.

While the State Conservation Commission (SCC) — an auton-

omous commission that oversees operation of the multi-agency, multi-government supported county conservation districts — has been charged with implementing the Nutrient Management Act, the department of agriculture has a major role in its development and administration, specifically with certification procedures.

Yesterday, after presstime, the Nutrient Management Advisory Board was to have met and was expected to have approved a number of regulatory aspects of the law, bringing the act closer to being completed according to the timetable, as set by law.

The board has been approving regulations without specific direction from the new administration as to how authority between the two departments most involved with carrying out the nutrient management act will be divided, if at all. Those agencies are the department of agriculture and the state DER.

Last month, after Gov. Ridge took his oath of office, the advisory board had contacted the transition team and the governor's office for a meeting to seek probable direction of the new administration, so that board member's work would not become idled, or made obsolete, after more than a year working out details of the law.

According to a report during an earlier advisory board meeting, the transition team had directed the board to continue its work, though with the knowledge that some minor changes may have to be made later in the law to reflect possible changes in governmental organization.

However, the Penn State University Cooperative Extension Service has been charged with creating and delivering educational programs. Much of the timing of public education is tied into when the regulations have been finalized.

If there are significant alterations to the regulations made after they have been finalized, it could mean significant costs in money and time to the Penn State Cooperative Extension Service to reconstruct an educational program.

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