

Dairy Network Launches New Program, Seeks Project Leaders

KUTZTOWN (Berks Co.) — A group of regional agriculture and conservation organizations announced a new project - the "Dairy Network Partnership" - to help dairy farmers in southeastern Pennsylvania address key economic and environmental challenges. This two-year project seeks to provide new opportunities for Pennsylvania dairy farmers to improve profitability, conserve natural resources, and address consumer concerns through partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders in the dairy industry.

Organizations that are participating in the project include the Rodale Institute, the Atlantic Dairy Cooperative, the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and the Pennsylvania State University. Funding for the initiative is provided by the Pew Charitable Trusts and two new

staff persons will be hired.

According to Cary Oshins, Project Coordinator with the Rodale Institute, the formal kick-off for the project will be a "dairy network conference" later this spring to bring together leaders in the region's dairy industry. "This conference will allow us to introduce the project to a wider audience, gain new participants, and identify barriers farmers face in addressing environmental problems," Oshins said. "This process will also help us identify new incentives for farmers and further develop the project's work plan."

The initiative also recognizes that programs to address agricultural nonpoint source pollution will not be successful if they focus solely on the farmer. Conservation programs promoting nutrient management, stream protection, and water quality must be consistent with and supported by other changes and trends in the dairy industry.

New resources being developed by Penn State will be available for the project, including a farmstead evaluation tool. Drawing from the "Farm*A*Syst program developed in the Midwest, the evaluation will help farmers and technical assistants prioritize potential pollution sources for barnyards, pastures, and streams areas. These areas can be sources for concentrated runoff and groundwater pollution.

The project will be hiring two new staff and invites applicants to submit letters of interest and resumes with references. The "Project Leader" will be responsible for day to day management of the project and will work with a wide array of groups, from farmers to dairy processors to community leaders. This person will coordinate among the organizations in the partnership, develop educational materials and convene the conference. The Project Leader will need a strong working knowledge of the Pennsylvania dairy industry.

The second position, the "Project Associate," will be responsible for the project's educational efforts. Since much of this work will be directed toward dairy producers, hands-on experience with dairy farming is required. Other duties will include coordinating on-farm demonstrations and field days and identifying incentives for environmentally sound farming practices. This individual will also work extensively in one-on-one

and small group situations.

For more information on the project, contact Cary Oshins at the Rodale Institute (610-683-1400) or Laura England at the Atlantic Dairy Cooperative (215-322-0200).

Letters of interest and resumes can be submitted to: Dairy Network Project, Rodale Institute, 611 Siegfriedale Rd., Kutztown, PA 19530. The deadline for applications is March 1.

Atlantic Locals Hold

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premiums. Quality and over-order premiums amount to about 30 to 50 cents per hundred to the members.

In the awards ceremony, John and Orpha Peters and son and daughter-in-law Dennis and Nancy Peters, along with Paul and Marv Sauder, received quality premium awards.

In the election of officers and delegates for the Donegal Local: Steve Hershey, president; Paul Sauder, vice president; Jacob Cooley, secretary/treasurer; Earl Landis and David Martin, delegates; Steve Hershey and Homer Hess, alternate delegates.

In the Lititz Local: Nevin Horning, president; Elmer High, vice

president; Marvin Sauder, secretary/treasurer; John Wenger, Gerald Martin, Nevin Horning, Marvin Sauder, and Dale Hershey, delegates, and Leonard Martin, Andrew Miller, Harry Becker, Jr., Ed Sensenig, Paul Fahnestock, and Don Hershey, alternate delegates.

In other news, Atlantic announced a \$3.78 million distribution to members in patronage refunds. The money represents member equity or investment in the cooperative. The amount distributed to each member is based on the amount of milk each member sold during the 1989 fiscal year. Atlantic distributes its patronage refunds on a five-year revolving schedule.

Early Weaning Boasts Health

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Judges for the contest were Chris Herr, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Harrisburg and Mike Firestone, Lebanon Valley Bank.

At the annual Keystone Pork Bowl, a close contest was cinched with the last group of questions. York FFA won first place, beating out the second-place Indiana FFA team 185-130. The York FFA members are Mark Parrish, Alisha Eberly, Shanna Daugherty, and Heather Jasienski. Melissa Trostle is coach and Bertha Jasienski is assistant coach.

Indiana FFA team members include Cathy Fyock, Lisa Zack, Jessica Abel, Adrienne Elkin, and Richard Stumpf. Coach is John

Fyock.

Cumberland County FFA team, which placed third, is comprised of Angela Hoffman, Michelle Cornman, Curt Lehman, and Heather Lehman. Coach is Bruce Lemmon.

Bethany Alana Elkin, 19, daughter of Sam and Paula Elkin, Marion Center, was appointed pork industry representative at the Expo. A sophomore in ag engineering at Penn State, Bethany helps on her father's 500-sow farrow-to-feeder operation. Bethany has been involved with the Marion Center 4-H.

At the legislative activity fund auction, \$9,810 was raised to benefit the fund, according to Abe Fisher, president of the state pork producers council.

Calhoun Named Dairy Promoter

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — Anna Calhoun, Dayton, was recognized this week as the dairy "Promoter of the Year" at the 1995 Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program Annual Meeting, Nittany Lion Inn. State College.

The award is given to recognize an individual who provides outstanding service to local promotion activities in Pennsylvania.

"Anna's contribution to the dairy industry is an example to everyone in dairy promotion," said Harold Shaulis, PDPP Local Promotions Chairman, in announcing the award. "When I




heard the list of Anna's activities, I was truly amazed. We consider it an honor to recognize an individual's dedication to Pennsylvania's dairy industry."

Calhoun was 1993-94 Indiana/Armstrong County Dairy Princess when she won the Dairy Princess Promoter Tina Schultz Memorial Award.

Calhoun is a senior at Dayton High School and resides with her parents, Bill and Betty Calhoun, and brother, Michael, in Dayton. She plans to attend Alfred State College, New York, this fall as a floriculture merchandising major.


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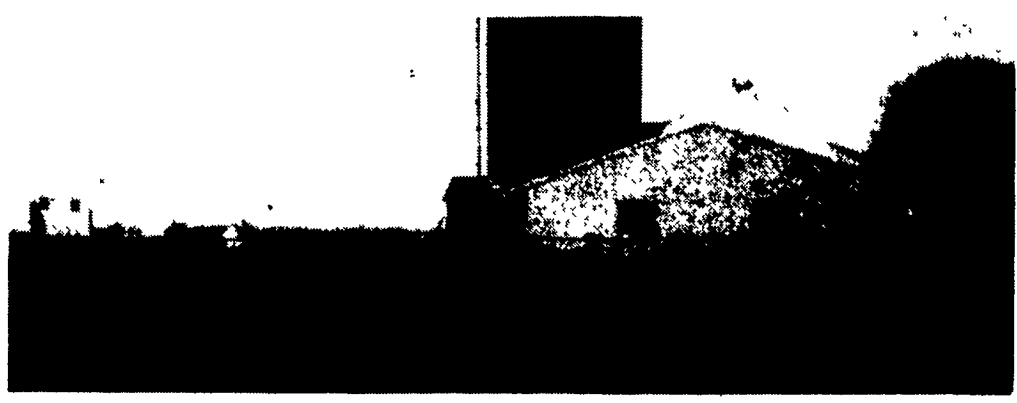
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