

PENNSYLVANIA
DAIRY MANAGERS
AND ADVISERS JOIN
THE INFORMATION
SUPER HIGHWAY
(INTERNET)

William Heald and Lisa Holden
Dairy And
Animal Science
Penn State

Did you ever wish that you could have the best advice from 1,200 other farmers and dairy advisers, including national and international experts?

Did you ever wish you could tell someone else your farm problem to see if they experienced the same thing and find out how they solve the problem?

Want to know what they would do differently?

Maybe you never thought about it. If you are a computer user or plan to be, it is time you consider using the Internet for information retrieval.

Communicating with other farmers anywhere in the world at the touch of a keyboard is not some dream for tomorrow. It can be a very real part of your everyday life today!

A small group of farmers, consultants, veterinarians, students, and researchers in Pennsylvania are using the Internet to their advantage everyday. They hear about farm problems, offer advice, and learn from others' experiences.

The cost for farmers is little

other than the cost of a computer attached to a telephone line and a network company. It can be done for \$10 per month if you have a computer and modem.

Internet (a free international computer network) users send notes to each other and don't have to worry about whether or not someone is there to answer.

Sending notes can be done at any time — when they are free of management duties. It is much like sending a letter but faster and easier (no stamps). The recipients respond at their pleasure, when it suits them. The response could be in minutes, hours, or days, depending when the responder next uses their computer.

It is private, confidential, and cheaper that telephone calls. Other information is available such as daily commodity prices, market news, weather forecasts, newspapers, magazines, and entertainment.

Listservs, electronic gathering places for people of common interests, are the popular thing on the Internet. One popular listserv is Dairy-L. Other users of listservs include graziers, cattlemen, veterinarians, genealogists, collectors, researchers, writers, and the list goes on.

Foot problems, BST, greenhouse structures for cattle housing, ways to store cottonseed, suggestions for labor management, mycotoxins, vaccinations, rare diseases, ways to save bedding, how to cool cows, milk marketing, futures, "where do I find..." or "what is Jack's address," or "have

Pasture Walk June 2

FREDERICK, Md.—The June Pasture Walk for Frederick Coun-

you ever seen..." are examples of discussion topics on the program called Dairy-L, hosted by Mark Varner, University of Maryland and Rodger Cady, Washington State University. A small number for Pennsylvania producers, veterinarians, consultants, county agents, and researchers participate.

Another such listsery is called Graze-L for those producers interested in grazing topics. Discussions were fast and furious this spring regarding bloat and adjusting from indoor feeding to grazing paddocks. Lately, the economics of intensive rotational grazing and the resources available for graziers have been hot topics. The Graze-L list is hosted by Noel Bridgeman from Taranaki Polytech in New Zealand and Michele Gale-Sinnox at the University of Wisconsin. Several Pennsylvania folks are participating. Ask your county agent or send an e-mail to Lisa Holden at LAH7@PSU.EDU for more information about Graze-L.

If you are interested and want more information, ask a computer friend. Today that could be a neighbor, veterinarian, feed dealer, county agent, or you can send an e-mail to Bill Heald at CWH3@PSU.EDU. He coordinates a start-up group of Pennsylvania users, offers classes, and plans to offer education materials by Internet.

Ask your county agent to plan an Internet training experience. A national effort is under way to set up a World Wide Web for dairy users and the Penn State faculty are busy developing their home page to be browsed by Interent users. Plan to join the informal Pennsylvania dairy e-mail group to keep abreast of this fast-changing technology.

When you are on line, send a note to Bill and indicate whether you want to be added to the e-mail address list and want mail from other Internet users.

ty, Maryland will be held on Wednesday, June 21, from 10 a.m. until noon. Ron and Kathy Holter will be hosting the event.

This is the first year of grazing for Holterholm Farms. They have about 30 bred heifers on pasture with plans to move the 95-cow milking herd onto pasture within a year. Ron has been busy building fence, installing a water system, and planting additional acreage into permanent pasture.

The purpose of the pasture walk is to allow livestock producers a chance to learn more about the use of rotational grazing as a way to increase agricultural profitability. Most of the time will be spent walking through the pastures discussing plant growth, fencing, watering systems, and animal performance.

Holterholm Farms is located at 5627 Holter Road. From Jefferson, go east on Jefferson Pike to left onto Holter Road. Go two miles to farm on the right. From Middletown, go south on Route 17 to immediate left onto Franklin Street (this becomes Holter Road). Go four miles to farm on the left.

For more information, contact Stanley W. Fultz, extension agent, dairy science, (301) 694-1594.

District Employs Resource Conservationist

WEST CHESTER (Chester Co.)—The Chester County Conservation District announces the employment of Ken Wilson as Chesapeake Bay resource conservationist.

Wilson is from Atglen, and began employment with the conservation district on Monday, May 15. His background includes a lifelong farming experience associated with the operation of his family's southern Chester County farm

Wilson's agricultural experience also includes prior employment with the Chester/Delaware Counties' Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service (ASCS), the Lancaster County Conservation District as an agronomist administering their Chesapeake Bay Program, and most recently as an agronomist for Browning Ferris Industries' (BFI) Organics Division.

As Chesapeake Bay Resource Conservationist, Wilson will be directly involved with Chester County's Chesapeake Bay watershed area. He will administer technical direction to cooperating the owners for the implementation of nutrient management plans as well as best management practices.

Efforts will be focused on promotion of the wise use of nutrient and pesticide management and erosion control practices. These practices can help reduce the amounts of nutrients, chemicals and sediment which can pollute area water sources due to typical agriculture activities.

Part of the Chesapeake Bay Program involves contacting and working directly with agricultural operators, collecting and analyzing site-specific information. This effort, combined with regional and county statistical data, is used to assist landowners in developing and implementing various components essential to maintaining a high standard of water quality, as well as an effective conservation plan.

