

# Cattle Field Day To Examine Use Of By-Products As Feed Source

**ANDY ANDREWS**  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
**MAYTOWN** (Lancaster Co.)  
— Commercial feedlot owners, cattle breeders, cow/calf operators, and others are invited to attend the annual Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association (PCA) Field Day and Tour on Saturday, June 17 to begin here at the Lloyd F. Furman Memorial Park.

In the past, the focus of the annual field day, which includes tours of several farms, has centered on the challenges faced by breeders and cow/calf operators. For this year's event the focus has shifted to not only the brood cow operators, but those who feed to finish.

The event in June will examine how commercial feedlots use food waste products as the cattle's primary food source.

"Over the years, the focus has always been on the cow/calf operations, mostly because the purebred operations were more likely to host something like this at their farm rather than a commercial producer or feedlot producer," said Chet Hughes, Lancaster County livestock agent.

Hughes, who chairs the educational events of the field day, said that the PCA has recognized that the beef feeding industry is a vital part of the overall cattle industry in the state. Lancaster County has a

lot of feedlot producers. Importantly, those same producers are near some major food processing plants that can supply the processing by-products used to feed beef cattle.

The focus of the event will be on the commercial aspects of the industry and the activities in the southeastern part of the state, said Bill McCoy, president of Lancaster Stockyards and chairman of the event. The event will accommodate up to 600 people.

The PCA wants to involve the input of the feedlot producers more in the coming years. McCoy said the emphasis will be on how producers can use the waste products to make up for the high cost of feedstuff. In the southeast portion of the state, a "deficit corn area," said McCoy, producers have relatively easy access to the by-products from bakeries, chip makers, and other processors.

"Lots of waste can be fed to the cattle," said Chet Hughes, and this represents a unique and viable marketing opportunity for producers.

Several farms comprise the tour. Two of the farms, the Barley Farm in Conestoga and the Nissley Bros. Farm in Mount Joy, use food by-products. Barley's Star Rock Farm, which finishes about 1,800 head of cattle per year, uses noodle waste provided by a local food pro-

cessor. The Nissley Farm, which finishes about 300 head of cattle per year, utilizes potato chip by-products provided by a local chip manufacturer.

Another farm tour will be conducted of the Dwight Hess Farm, Mount Joy, which finishes about 300 head of cattle per year.

The program begins at 8:30 a.m. at the Lloyd F. Furman Memorial Park in Maytown, in the western part of the county. There, buses will board on a staggered schedule to three different destinations. At noon, the buses will return and lunch will be served by the PCA's Keystone Ribeye Sandwich crew. After lunch, Charles Brosius, Pennsylvania secretary of agriculture, will address the group. The afternoon schedule will include a repeat of the sessions from the morning.

Scheduled to speak at the field day are the following:

- Harold Harpster, Penn State research on feeding food processing by-products.

- John Comerford, Penn State beef specialist, on how to interpret good feed efficiency in cattle.

- John Burt, Lancaster County conservation district technician, on controlling soil erosion and feedlot runoff.

- An ag engineer to discuss new facilities.

In using food by-products — material which provides an excel-

lent source of energy and nutrients for cattle — shows a lot of promise, according to recent Penn State research. Hughes said that Penn State has analyzed all sorts of materials for feed quality, including cardboard, newspapers, candy, snacks, "a lot of stuff. Producers realize the potential here in Pennsylvania.

"The stumbling block has always been the handling and the timing of getting these things in the proper amount and working with the source.

"The biggest handling challenge is to ensure enough of the by-

product is available from the producer at the right time. That's difficult to achieve," said Hughes.

Another important aspect of the field day is how farmers can make use of the program information to become better stewards of the land, according to McCoy.

Also scheduled is a tour of the Cameron Estates and Donegal Plantation for the spouses. There will be a lot of activities for children at the park.

For more information, contact Chet Hughes at the Lancaster County Cooperative Extension, (717) 394-6851.

## Official Holstein Pedigrees:

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tool for merchandising decisions later on. When they come back to buy another bull, they'll look back at those pedigrees.

"Everyone should have a pedigree to work with on their own herd," he said. "It's a valuable, usable tool for managing." He added he uses the pedigrees when making breeding decisions as well.

Pedigrees can be ordered at the time the animal is identified with the Holstein Association, at a discount rate. They can also be ordered at any time during the animal's lifetime. Updated classification and DHIR information is added periodically.

Teresa Kissling, or Robesonia, Pennsylvania, said she also uses pedigrees in their marketing activities. She updates the pedigrees regularly, such as after classification and when the Sire Summaries are published. She also updates pedigrees on high-profile cows for their ET program.

"We actively sell cattle year round, and offer a wide range of cattle to our buyers," she said. "It's definitely necessary to have new pedigrees on hand with updated information. You just can't sell cows with an old pedigree."

The Kisslings merchandise about 60 head of cattle annually, including both open and bred heifers, mature cows, and bulls. Their milking herd is currently at 65 cows.

Kissling said she also used the pedigrees for a sale they had last

November. "We normally order the three-generation pedigree, but we needed some extended pedigrees for the sale," she said. "Some of those pedigrees have Very Good or Excellent dams several generations back."

The buyers appreciate the pedigrees, she added. "Basically, if they're buying good quality animals, they do want a pedigree and do appreciate having it there. The bull studs are definitely happy to have a pedigree."

Harlan and Judith Borman in Kingdom City, Missouri, agree that pedigrees are important to have when merchandising. The farm milks about 130 head, with 150 replacement heifers.

A spokesman for the farm noted that for potential buyers who visit the farm, or for sale consignments, the pedigree information is good to have on hand. "The computer records on our farm can only do so much," she said. "The type information on the three-generation official pedigrees is valuable to have."

She noted the ancestry information is also valuable to have on the official pedigrees. While she normally only orders the three-generation pedigrees, she was able to use the longer pedigrees to trace one cow family back several decades. "We normally only get the basic pedigrees, but that time we were able to go all the way back to the 1940s with that animal," she said.

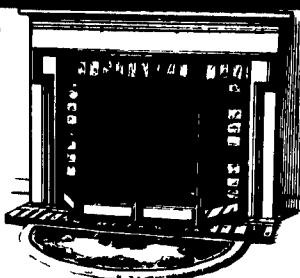
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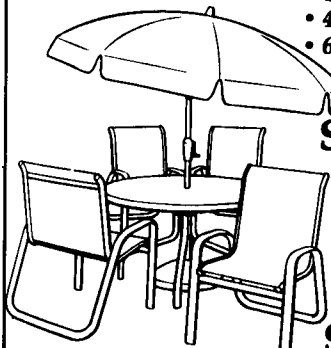
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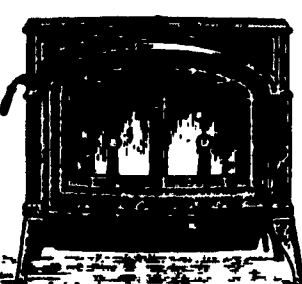
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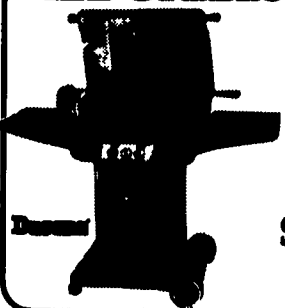
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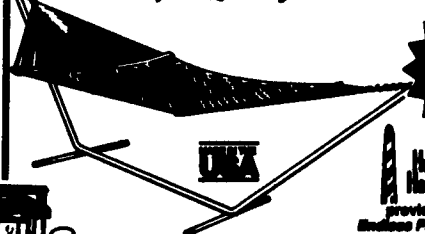
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