

Department Of Ag Hears Cries Of Help From Family Farms

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One letter, Brosius told those at the banquet, he received spoke about a fourth generation farm that was suffering from the costly drought this past summer. The dairy was trying to sustain itself on milk prices the same as 14-15 years ago. The family believed they had no option but to sell out in the spring.

According to Brosius, the family asked the department, "what can you do for us?"

The state government "has the opportunity and ability to reduce taxes," said Brosius, but if the farmer does not profit, he doesn't pay income taxes. Brosius said what the state government has the power to do is control the costly regulations — what he calls "another form of taxation through over-compliance" — and provide more educational opportunities with the help of cooperative extension to help the farmer sustain.

Soil and resource conservation remains the "major issue that agriculture faces in the commonwealth," said Brosius. He believes that farmers were the "original environmentalists" and care deeply about land stewardship. But farmers must work, said the secretary of agriculture, to "enlist the support of suburban neighbors to raise their awareness to and responsibility for our environment as well."

Farmers are faced with the 1995 Farm Bill, which will show drastic reductions in federal farm program support; the state nutrient management regulations, a result of the failure of state voluntary programs to curb nitrate contamination of the Chesapeake Bay; the fact that so many farms — 70 percent and rising — have family members who are employed off the farm to help the farm sustain; and that the farms and businesses of today will "not

be the farms and businesses of tomorrow" as a result of constant changes, including increasing urbanization.

As a result, the department will continue to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiencies of the groups appointed, said Brosius, and make sure the agencies will continue to work toward helping the farmer remain profitable.

Brosius praised those in extension, which he called "a big part of my life since I was a youngster, and which meant a great deal to me and my family when I was growing up."

At the banquet, Dr. Gary J. San Julian, regional director of the Penn State southeast cooperative extension, spoke about the ways in which extension works to provide, through 4-H and other programs, "possible bags" for youth.

The "possible bag" was a bag that was tied to the neck, carried by forefathers to this country, containing tinder, steel, and flint — the supplies necessary to live in the wilderness in case the necessary items in the pack were lost or stolen.

San Julian said the material in the "skin bag between their ears and eyes" is the "possible bag" to help adults and young people "develop skills to help in education" and thus to help them get through life.

He encouraged those present to help adults and youth in the county "build their possible bags" through the many extension programs available.

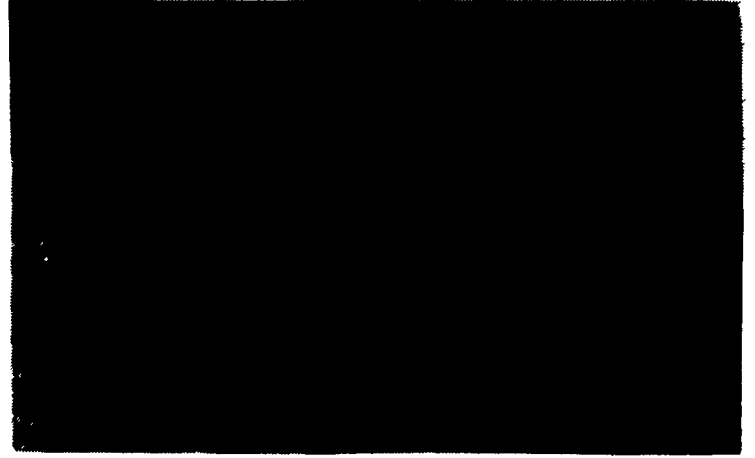
Jody Hewitt, a graduate of the Pennsylvania Governor's School, spoke about her experiences in the program. The program, lasting five weeks, was conducted this past summer from July 2 to Aug. 5 at Penn State.

Only 64 sophomores and juniors participated in the program. Jody,

16, daughter of Robert and Danielle Hewitt, Spring City, is a junior at Owen J. Roberts High School. Jody said the school was a "great experience" where she "learned a lot about ag and people."

At the meeting, Russ Albright provided an update on the Romano 4-H Center. The first building's plan has been finalized and the site work has been done on the entranceway. The building construction is in the bidding stage, and Albright said the first building would start construction in early spring. Cattle could be exhibited in the new barn "next year" he said.

Also, Laurie Anne Albrecht was noted to serve a three-year term on the county cooperative extension.



Honored at the banquet were, at left, Katherine Smiley, and Trudy Dougherty, county extension director, second from right and Laurie Szoke, far right. Dr. Gary J. San Julian, regional director, Penn State Southeast Cooperative Extension, presented the awards.



More than 150 Chester County Cooperative Extension representatives and friends gathered on Thursday evening for the annual meeting and banquet at the Guthrieville Fire Hall. Jody Hewitt, far left, is a graduate of the Pennsylvania Governor's School. Also on hand were county cooperative extension directors and speakers at the banquet. From left, Hewitt; Eileen Schafer, vice president; Dr. Gary J. San Julian, regional director, Penn State Southeast Cooperative Extension; Walt Moore, president; Charles C. Brosius, Pennsylvania secretary of agriculture, who spoke at the banquet; Bobby R. German, treasurer; Marjorie Keen, secretary; and Alan C. Johnson, second vice president.

Workshop Held For Vets, Nutritionists

DAVID BIGELOW

Training Coordinator

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.)—On Nov. 1, Pa. DHIA held a milk urea nitrogen (MUN) workshop for veterinarians and nutritionists at the Bird-In-Hand Family Restaurant in Lancaster County.

The keynote speaker was Dr. James Ferguson, associate professor of nutrition at the New Bolton Center, University of Pennsylvania. The main objective was to update and educate the vets and nutritionists on the new milk urea nitrogen testing.

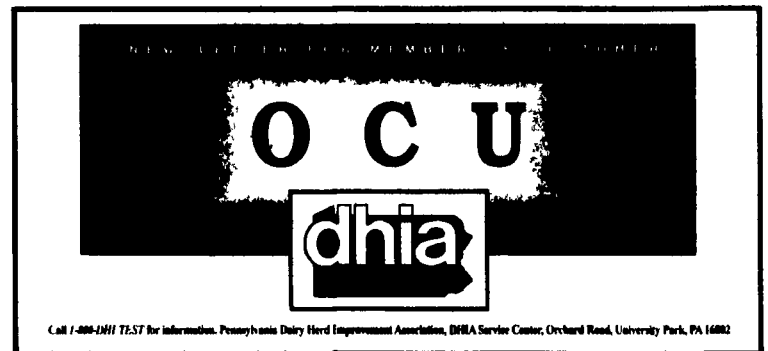
Statewide there are currently more than 600 herds enrolled on

the MUN option. Ninety-five percent of the Pa. DHIA memberships in Lancaster County are participating in the program. A member can receive these results at an additional 15 cents per cow. However, non-members can receive results through the sample analysis program.

Dean Amick, director of field operations, and David Slusser, general manager of Pa. DHIA, gave a few remarks concerning the success of the MUN testing as well as updated the audience on the performance economics program that will be available to the membership in the near future. This program will assist the dairy-

men in tracking costs associated with their farms. This program will be available at no extra cost to the dairymen.

Please feel free to contact your DHIA technician of Pa. DHIA at 1-800-344-8378, if you have any questions concerning MUN testing.



Lancaster Workshops Set

DAVID BIGELOW

Training Coordinator

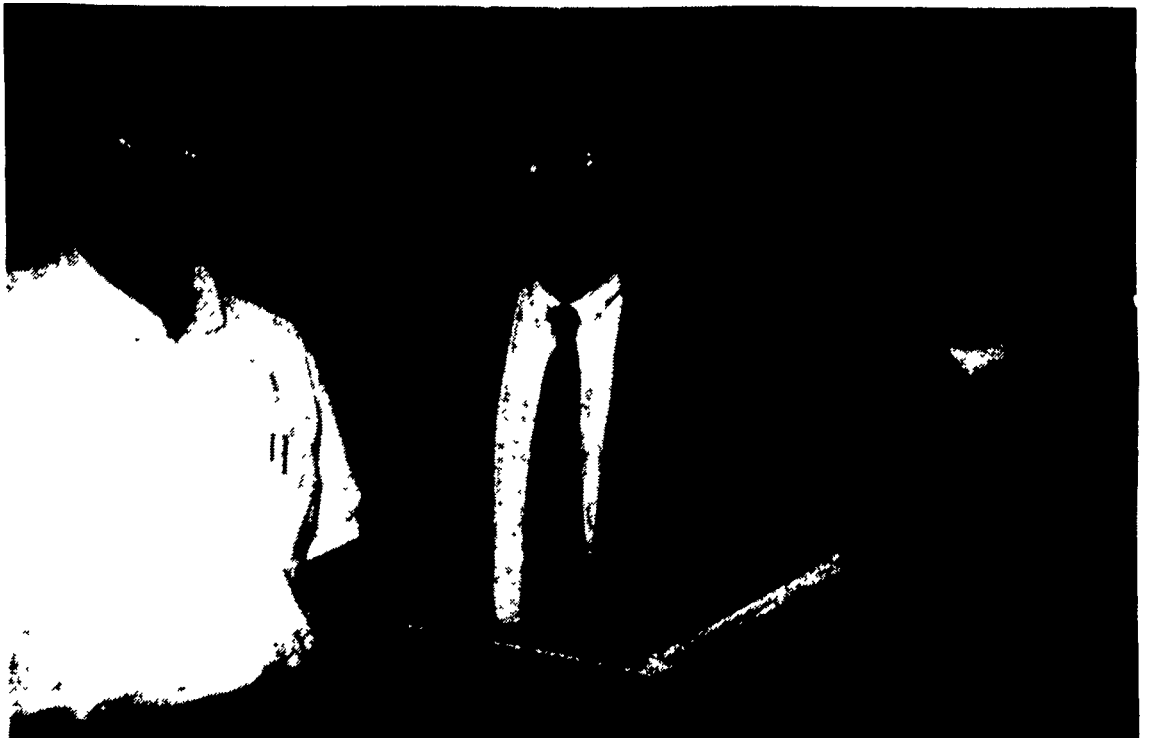
STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — Pa. DHIA will hold three workshops in the Lancaster County area on the new milk urea nitrogen (MUN) testing. These workshops are open to dairymen in Lancaster and surrounding counties.

The workshop is to feature professional speakers, with Dr. Linda Baker, VMD, keynoting the discussion on the MUN testing. Reproduction, herd health and

underfeeding or overfeeding protein can directly affect the MUN levels in a cow. Dr. Baker brings a wealth of knowledge due to her extensive research on this subject.

Each workshop is slated to begin at 11 a.m. and end at 1 p.m. with lunch being provided.

The three workshop dates and locations are Nov. 20, Willow Street, at the Willow Valley Restaurant; Nov. 21, New Holland, Yoder's Restaurant; and Nov. 22, in Mt. Joy, at the Country Table Restaurant.



From the left, James Ferguson, VMD, an associate professor of nutrition, at the New Bolton Center, David Slusser, general manager of Pa. DHIA, and Jay Rieser, one of Pa. DHIA's Lancaster County technicians.