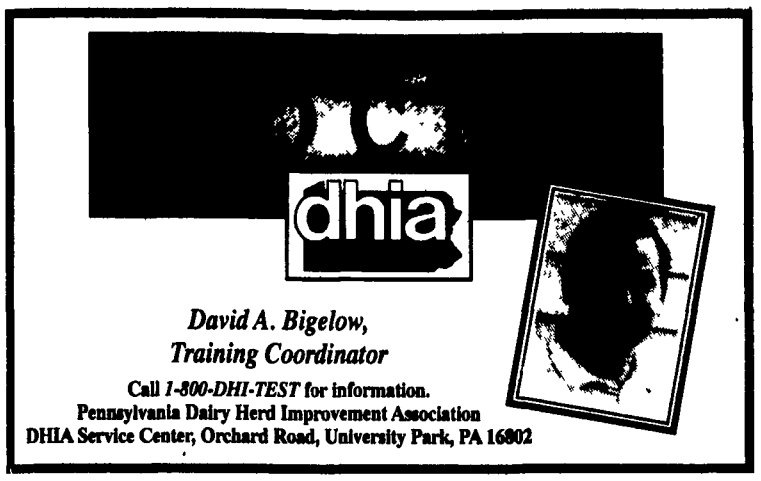

Technicians Train

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — Three Pa.DHIA technicians recently completed a field training seminar in State College.

The seminar involved five days of in-depth study.

Prior to this seminar, each technician received their initial training. By the time technicians receive the in-depth training of the seminar, they have approximately two to four months of prior training and experience.

This serves for better communication and interaction at the seminar.

The three who recently completed their advanced training were Ross Grooms from Armstrong County, Mary Schmidt from Crawford County, and Troy Liddick, of Dauphin County.

Quality certification through National DHIA requires that proper training be documented for the inspector's viewing.

Each year, Pa.DHIA holds spring, summer and fall conferences to constantly update all technicians on any changes and new programs. Mini-conferences are held in each county on a bimonthly basis to answer any questions or address concerns.

From the left, Ross Grooms, Mary Schmidt, and Troy Liddick, complete advanced training for Pa.DHIA technicians.

Please feel free to contact Pa.DHIA at 800-344-8378 if we can assist with your dairy operation.

Lancaster County — The Next Los Angeles?

The Lancaster Chamber of Commerce and Industry agriculture committee along with the Lancaster Farm and Home Foundation will hold a "Town Meeting" on Thursday, December 7, from 7 to 9 p.m., at the Farm and Home Center. The focus of the program is "Lancaster County—The Next Los Angeles?"

Preserving the viability and sustainability of agriculture is a top priority of many organizations in Lancaster County, but at the same time there exists an accelerating change of properties to non-agriculture land uses. This is a trend similar to growth patterns in such areas as Orange County, CA, and Cook County, IL—which now boast very little agriculture.

The meeting format will include 10-15 minute presentations from representatives of the business community, farming community, planning commission, and the tourist industry. This will be followed by a panel discussion on public policy and keeping agriculture strong in Lancaster County.

Presenters include Ron Bailey, Lancaster County Planning Commission; Harry Flick, Pennsylvania Dutch Convention and Visitors Bureau; Darvin Boyd, CoreStates Hamilton Bank; and Dale Hershey, dairy farmer. Panelists include Nelson Rohrer, Manheim Township Board of Commissioners; Terry Kauffman, Lancaster County Commissioner; John Barley, Pennsylvania House of Representatives, 100th legislative district; and Noah Wenger, Pennsylvania Senate, 36th legislative district.

Following the panel discussion will be an open forum for questions and discussion, moderated by Jim Shirk, the Chamber's agriculture services manager.

The town meeting is open to the public, free of charge. For more information, contact Jim Shirk at 397-3531.

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