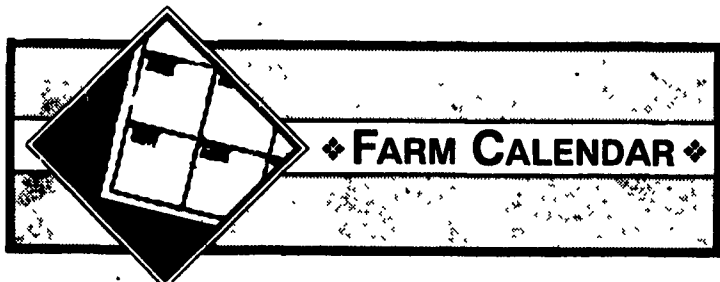


Maryland Dairy Producers Increasing Production Per Farm



FARM CALENDAR

(Continued from Page A10)

Center, Hershey, 1 p.m.-4:30 p.m. thru Dec. 8.
 Agway regional annual meeting, Hershey Convention Center.
 Agronomy Ag Service School, Lancaster Farm and Home Center, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
 Lancaster County Farmland Preservation Forum, Farm and Home Center, 7 p.m.
 Westmoreland County Extension annual dinner meeting, Mountain View Inn, Greensburg, 6:45 p.m.
Friday, December 8
 Agronomy Ag Service School, Quality Inn (Embers), Carlisle, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
 Western Pa. Vegetable and Berry Growers meeting, Days Inn, Butler, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 9
 Maryland Pleasure Horse Seminar, South Carroll High School, Winfield, Md., 8 a.m.
 Frederick County Ag Society stockholders meeting, Frederick Fairgrounds, 10 a.m.
Sunday, December 10

Monday, December 11

Tuesday, December 12
 ADADC District 21 meeting, Timberwolf Restaurant, Darren, N.Y., noon.

Wednesday, December 13
 Farm Employee Management Seminar, Carlisle Holiday Inn, also Dec. 20.

COLLEGE PARK, Md.—“Even though the dairy industry has had a setback in this state, seven of Maryland’s Piedmont counties have been able to hold their own and show an increase in production recently,” said Dr. John W. Wysong, cooperative Extension agricultural economist with the University of Maryland at College Park.

Those seven counties—Frederick, Washington, Carroll, Baltimore, Harford, Howard and Montgomery—have increased their share of the state’s milk production from 80 to 83 percent between 1980 and 1994. Wysong said their continued concentration on milk production is surprising because of conversion of farmland into non-farm areas or non-dairy farms over the past decade and a half.

Even though the share of milk production increased, total milk output declined slightly from 1.147 billion pounds in 1980 to 1.031 billion pounds in 1994. Wysong attributed this decline to

the spread of urban prosperity into rural farm areas and the federal dairy herd buy-out program in 1986 and 1987.

Although not considered a Piedmont county, Garrett County has expanded production from 1980 to 1994. That county ranked fourth in total cows and milk production—behind Frederick, Washington and Carroll counties—in 1994. Those top three counties alone produce 65 percent of the milk in Maryland.

The upper Eastern Shore, including Kent, Cecil and Queen Anne’s counties, is another significant area of milk production in Maryland. Caroline and Talbot counties have experienced drops in milk output over the last 15 years because of urbanization and the concentration on soybeans, field corn and broiler and egg production.

According to the Middle Atlan-

tic Market Administrator’s Bulletin, Maryland has lost 52 dairy farms since July 1994. The remaining farms have increased the state’s milk production from 95,351,000 pounds in July 1994 to 96,580,000 pounds in July 1995. Pennsylvania ranks ahead of Maryland in the Mid-Atlantic region, producing 333,050,000 pounds of milk in July.

“Because of the Cooperative Extension Service, the Agricultural Experiment Station and the research and support from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, dairy farms have been able to compete fairly well and keep the dairy industry prominent in Maryland during the past 15 years,” said Wysong. “Gains in milk production and marketing efficiencies have enabled Maryland consumers to attain dairy products at reasonable retail or consumer level prices.”

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