



Chester County Dairy Milk Lines

Walter Wurster
Extension
Dairy Agent

The new year will start out with a great dairy program on Thursday, Jan. 4, at the Oxford Fire Hall.

The focus this year will be on three topics that are very important to dairy farmers—nutrient management, reproduction management, and intensive grazing.

The day will begin at 10 a.m. with a discussion on best management practices for a good nutrient management program.

Jerry Martin, project assistant for the Pequea-Mill Creek Project

in Lancaster County, will address issues such as barnyard runoff, stream bank protection, and clean water concerns. These are topics that are important not only to the environment, but to a farm family's well-being.

Dr. Michael O'Connor, Penn State Dairy Extension specialist, will bring dairy farmers up-to-date on the latest technology in dairy reproduction management. He is to focus on reproductive techniques to get high producing cows bred.

As the dairy cows of today reach higher production, there is a

constant battle to get them bred back in a reasonable amount of time. Although extended lactations may look good for an individual cow's record, the profitability of the herd, and the farm is penalized.

Axel Linde and Millie Widmann from Lindenhof Farm between Oxford and Kirkwood will describe their highly successful intensive grazing program. The farm has had one of the top Guernsey herds in Pennsylvania for several years, and their grazing program has been honed to perfection.

The brother and sister team are carrying on the fine grazing tradi-

tion established by their father. They will talk about their pasture layout and how they manage their system under normal conditions as well as in times of drought and wet weather.

The noon meal will be a hot dinner buffet with all you can eat for \$5. This charge is only one-third of the total cost, but it can be offered at this price because of the fine support from a variety of dairy-related businesses that will have exhibits at the event.

Those attending are encouraged to visit the displays before the meeting and following the noon meal.

The new Pennsylvania Nutrient Management Law is an issue of concern for all dairy operators.

Questions—such as How will it affect me? Do I need a plan? When and where can I spread manure?—will be answered during a session on the ramifications of the law following dinner.

Dan Greig, manager, Chester County Conservation District, and Walter Wurster, Chester County Extension Agent, will explain the program and answer questions.

(Turn to Page A23)

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