

Smysers Continue As Top York County Herd

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The high performance herd of Smyser's Richlawn Farm has extended for yet another year its perch at the top spot of York County's Dairy Herd Improvement Association production listing.

Rodney Smyser, who operates the East Berlin Road, York, registered Holstein herd with his brother Robert, accepted an armful of awards during the county's annual DHIA dinner and recognition meeting, held Nov. 20 at the Shrewsbury Fire Hall.

With a rolling herd average for the year of 25,075 pounds of milk, 773 pounds protein and 934 pounds butterfat, Smyser's Richlawn Farm topped both the milk production and protein categories.

Individuals in the 75-head herd also claimed top awards for 305-day milk and protein production and high lifetime milk production.

The herd's accomplishments combined to earn the York farm the county's management award, with a total of 113 points. Richlawn's repeat performances at the top of the county list have continued for nearly a decade.

Also claiming a repeat award of several years running were Edward and Carolyn Calhoun, Glen Rock, taking the low somatic cell count award with an average of 149,000. Topping the high lifetime production for protein was Horace Heindel, Airville, whose Satin cow tallied a total of 7,159 pounds.

Recording the most protein pounds of improvement, among herds averaging over 600 pounds of protein, was Beshore Farms, New Cumberland, with an increase of 39 pounds. An increase of 96 pounds earned Hidden Springs Farm the top award for protein increase in herds under 600 pounds average.

During the business session, three directors were elected to three-year terms on the county DHIA board. Filling those positions are John Doll, Hanover, John Sprenkle, Spring Grove and Jerry Taylor, Delta. An award of appreciation was presented to outgoing board member Gary Thoman, for six years of service, several as president of the York DHIA.

Scott Cooper, Delta, county president, reviewed in his report the continuing decline in test herds and cow numbers, balanced by continuing increases in production. In 1994, York County had 78 herds with 6,063 cows, or 71 per herd, with herds averaging 18,135 pounds, to rank the county 30th in Pennsylvania. In 1995, 74 herds with 5,880 cows were on test, with 73.5 cows per herd, averaging 18,472 pounds of milk, and ranking 27th in the state.

With an increase in herds testing on one-time, AM-PM testing, York County operated more efficiently, with one less technician and more working days per

remaining technicians. York technicians include Abbe Gore, Donald Messinger, Jean Myers, Carolyn and Clyde Stump and Marianne Walter.

"We want to maintain the quality and the integrity of testing, but at the same time, be the least-cost server of members' testing needs," affirmed Cooper.

Further state efficiencies were reviewed by district director Neil McCullough, Newville, who represents Cumberland and York counties on the state DHIA board. McCullough noted that the current debt of the statewide testing cooperative has been reduced to one-third its previous level.

Regional manager Dave Shenk and director of field services Dean Amick reviewed the state DHIA's newest program offered to members, Milk Urea Nitrogen (MUN) testing.

MUN testing is a method of evaluating if cows are being overfed protein, a condition which can adversely affect reproductivity efficiency. Over-feeding protein can also cost as much as \$50 per cow per year.

MUN testing, which measures the milk urea nitrogen levels in milk samples, is less costly and easier than previous methods which required blood sampling. In comparative tests run on the dairy herd at the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center, MUN results from milk and blood were virtually identical.

According to Shenk, MUN testing will cost 15 cents per cow and is optional, to be utilized only as frequently as a producer-member feels is necessary. MUN testing is recommended when major changes are made in feeding programs or new feed supplies are put into use.

Top five production herds were Smyser's Richlawn Farms, 25,075 pounds milk average, Ramsey Cooper Jr., 24,250 pounds, Sinking Springs Farm Inc., 23,694



From the left, York County Dairy Princess Angela Mummert congratulates Rodney Smyser, representing Smyser's Richlawn Farms, for winning multiple county DHIA production awards, and Carolyn Calhoun, for again having the lowest somatic cell count among county DHIA herds.

pounds, William Myers, 23,415 pounds and Lynn Wolf, 23,075 pounds milk.

Smyser's high protein of 773 pounds was followed by Lynn Wolf, with 745 pounds, Sinking Springs Farm Inc., 744 pounds, Ramsey Cooper Jr., 740 pounds and Beshore Farms, 739 pounds protein.

High 305-day record went to Emily, of Smyser's Richlawn Farms, with 34,823 pounds of milk, followed by Glen and Dawn Anderson's cow Pamela, with 34,635 pounds. Third was Loretta, with 33,778, owned by Earl Fuhrman, fourth was Woodbine Farms' #479, with 33,778, and fifth was a

second herd member of Smyser's Richlawn, Bertha, with 33,654 pounds.

Smyser's had the top two 305-day protein records, Poppy, with 1,098 pounds, and Jenna, with 1,042. Stump Acres was third with Najet's 1,036-pound record. Fourth was Beshore Farms' Jewel, producing 1,031 pounds protein, and fifth was Shelly, another Smyser herd member, at 1,027 pounds.

High lifetime milk production was Smyser's Sally, with a seven-lactation total of 239,917. Second was Becky, with 237,371 in eight lactations, owned by Wayne Myers, third was Ramsey Cooper,

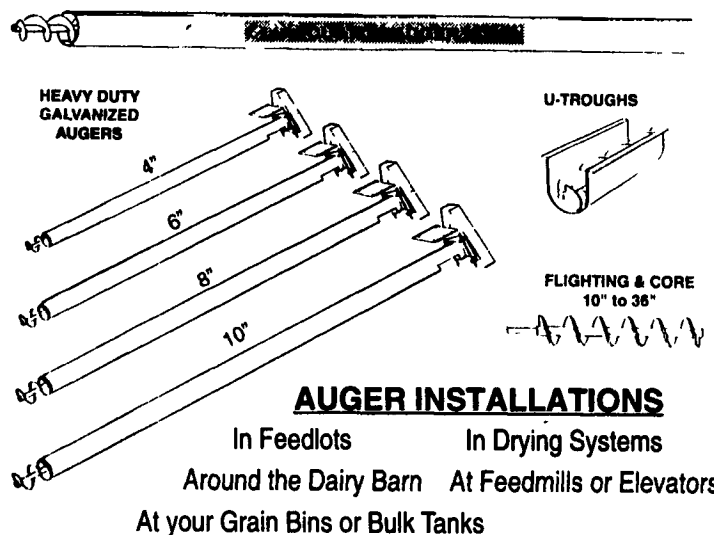
Jr.'s Michelle, 235,655 pounds in nine lactations, fourth was Joelyn, 223,148 pounds in six lactations, owned by Smyser's Richlawn, and fifth was Lily, with 210,984 pounds in eight lactations.

Tallying high lifetime protein honors behind Heindel's Satin, at 7,159 pounds in 10 lactations, were Ramsey Cooper's Michelle, 6,928 pounds in nine lactations, Smyser's Sally, with 6,880 in seven lactations, Wayne Myer's Becky, with 6,790 pounds in eight lactations and Smyser's Joelyn, with 6,728 pounds protein in six lactations.

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