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Pennsylvania DHIA's Downsizing, Programs Provide Positive Outlook

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — The annual meeting of the Pennsylvania DHIA was held Friday of last week with a positive outlook expressed. The organization paid off \$600,000 in debt from cash flow and new programs such as Milk Urea Nitrogen (MUN) testing, and Performance Economics have taken off better than expected.

"There has and will continue to be a need to provide services and products that meet the individual dairymen's needs," President Lane Sollenberger said in his report to the membership. "We've dramatically down-sized the organization in many areas, including office space, employees, and type of employees; for example, non-union employees in the lab. This has cut costs significantly and has allowed us to make tremendous strides in paying back the indebtedness of the organization without increasing testing rates at the same rate. If we had to pay back our debt at this aggressive rate over the past

year without cost cutting measures, I'm afraid PA DHIA would either no longer exist, or be unaffordable to many of our members.

The process of down-sizing has not been without its problems, and we realize that. But management and your board continue to be committed to making PA DHIA affordable and an essential tool to profitable dairying into the 21st century."

In the general manager's report, Dave Slusser said this year of turn around was mainly due to the cost cutting moves of 1994. This greatly improved the organization's bottom line.

"The new services are designed to help our members save money and operate more efficient farm operations. Slusser said, "PA DHIA is responsible for introducing to Pennsylvania dairymen 15 cents per cow MUN analysis, and the MUN herd summary report. We believe very strongly in this program and how it can save money for our members. We wanted to keep the cost of the prog-

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At the Pennsylvania DHIA annual meeting are from left, Lane Lollenberger, president; Bob Kindig, former national director; and James Ferguson, VMD, associate professor of nutrition, University of Pennsylvania, New Bolton Center.

More Than 110 Participate In All-Breeds Dairy Convention

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — The first annual Pennsylvania Junior All-Breeds Dairy Convention was held last weekend in State College with more than 110 young people, leaders and extension agents participating.

Youth associated with all the major dairy breeds were present.

The convention started with a pizza party and social on Friday evening, followed Saturday morning with several workshops on reading pedigrees, judging cows, milking equipment, dairy nutrition, animal byproducts and cattle photography.

Older students attended workshops about biotechnology, repro-

ductive physiology, forage particle size and pH, and designing effective advertising programs.

After lunch, Jayne Sebright and Rebecca Sonnen from Mid-Atlantic Milk Marketing Association gave a brief overview of dairy promotion activities.

Convention participants then designed and filmed their own commercials.

Winners of the milk commercial contest were Rebecca Cornman, Becky Kilgore, David Blake, Cris Wood, Melissa Wertz, Stephanie Pomraning, Korey Zimmerman, Jonathan McMurray, J.D. Kelly, and Dorte Chess.

Also held Saturday afternoon

was a dairy management quiz contest. First place at the first-ever convention quiz contest was a

team consisting of Lauren Daubert, Jennifer McMillen, Emily Norman and Erica Lloyd.

Two teams tied for second. One team consisted of Mary Morrow,

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\$5,000 Calf Tops Holstein Convention Sale

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

WILLIAMSPORT (Lycoming Co.) — Number 1 in the catalog, a November 1995 Blackstar calf out of an Excellent Leadman, topped the Pennsylvania Holstein Sale here Thursday night at \$5,000.

Held in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Holstein Associa-

tion's annual convention, the sale highlighted the opening day's activities that bring together Holstein enthusiasts from across the state.

The top-selling calf, Passion RC Matt Margie-ET, was consigned by Matthew Senita, from Wattsburg, and was purchased by Gisela Olsen from Avenel, N.J.

The three nearest dams were all Excellent with records to 40,780m, 1,823f, 1,356p. The dam is first in Pennsylvania for fat and third for protein as a 2-year-old.

Penn-Cal Celsius Jingle-ET, a June 1995 heifer consigned by Lester Poust, Muncy, sold to Christopher Raney, State College,

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Growers Should Watch For Potential Fruit Rot Diseases This Season



Dr. Jim Travis, Penn State plant pathologist, second from left, spoke about the potential for orchard problems this year with peach fruit rots to 70 growers at the Penn State-sponsored York/Lancaster County Tree Fruit Growers' Educational Meeting on Wednesday at the Farm and Home Center. The meetings continue the next few weeks in several other regions of Pennsylvania. From left, Brenda Beleski Briggs, director of the Pennsylvania Apple Marketing Board; Travis; Dr. Rob Crassweller, Penn State pomologist; Phil Pitzer, PDA Region VI agronomic products inspector; and Dr. Carl Felland, Penn State entomologist.

ANDY ANDREWS

Lancaster Farming Staff
LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.)

— To control new disease challenges in peaches, a plant pathologist told growers that "it's important you identify the disease properly so you know what the control should be."

Dr. Jim Travis, Penn State plant pathologist, spoke about the potential for orchard problems this year with peach fruit rots to 70 growers at the Penn State-sponsored York/Lancaster County Tree Fruit

Growers' Educational Meeting on Wednesday at the Farm and Home Center. The meetings continue the next few weeks in several other regions of Pennsylvania.

Travis indicated last year an area grower experienced "substantial damage" with peach fruit rot that affected half an orchard's fruit.

There are three different diseases that growers should be aware of this year: brown rot, peach anthracnose, and Rhizopus fruit

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1996 Dairy Of Distinction Applications Sought

KINGSTON (Luzerne Co.) — Do you take pride in maintaining your dairy farm? Does your dairy farm project an attractive, wholesome image to consumers? If so, the Dairy of Distinction Program of New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania will consider your farm for the program's annual

recognition awards.

The Northeast Dairy Farm Beautification Program was first started in 1983 to recognize the hard work and dedication of the farmers who maintained attractive farms. The purpose of the program is to instill a greater sense of con-

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