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Cornman, Page In Holstein Hall, Weimers Distinguished Breeders



Creed In Cornman, left, and George Page, Jr., were named to the Pennsylvania Holstein Association's Hall of Fame last week at the annual convention in Williamsport.

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

WILLIAMSPORT (Lycoming Co.) — Riding on the wave of national accolades for hosting Holstein USA's annual convention in Pittsburgh last June, the Pennsylvania Holstein Association met last week to review the year's activities, elect officers, and present Hall of Fame, Young Holstein Breeder, and numerous other production and type awards.

Beginning on Thursday of last week, Ralph DeVillars, a Muncy salesman and hobby milk bottle collector, opened the event with the history of the milk bottle. DeVillars has one of the most extensive collections of bottles, with local and national examples of the first "jars" used to distribute milk door to door. Special innovations such as the cream top, the baby face cream top, the bottle with an indented side cream separator bottle, and the bottle with the pewter handle and top were among the illustrations.

In the old days, the farmer didn't let someone else do the marketing. He did it himself. At first it was just a milk can with a dipper to ladle out milk into the town customer's container. Later, various milk bottles with additional advertising messages were added to the farmer's marketing program.

DeVillars contends that one of the problems with marketing today is that farmers have given up their own efforts to bring their products to market.

In a panel discussion, Dr. Robert Yonkers, moderator, expanded on the marketing topic with "Policies, Issues and Challenges." James Dunn from Penn State had worked in U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum's office to help draft the new Farm

Bill. Dunn said they expected to have passed a Farm Bill by now, but the bill is still working its way through the system. At any rate, the bill didn't include anything about dairy because no one could agree on what should be included. The

major difficulty is that while such things as food stamps, welfare reform, and Medicare follow party lines, the dairy issue follows regional lines.

Dennis Schad, Atlantic Dairy Association, agreed. He said there were many players in the field beside farmers. Environmental and nutritional interests are especially strong in the Farm Bill negotiations.

Efforts to lower milk hauling costs have begun in some areas by cooperatives working together to pick up milk at each other's farms if they are side by side. The move to consolidate federal orders is being done to make the business environment better so milk plants don't need to move from one to the other.

Richard Waybright, Mason Dixon Farms, said the nation doesn't need Pennsylvania's milk but Pennsylvania needs the national markets.

(Turn to Page B16)

Farm Organizations Split On Farm Bill Proposals

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — State farm and rural organizations are split, not evenly, on proposals from the U.S. Senate and House on a new Farm Bill, especially dairy provisions.

A Senate Farm Bill proposal has already been passed and has been criticized by some farm organizations for what is seen as certain deficiencies or excesses depending

ing on the perspective of the organization's leaders, while the House had been expected to complete its version of the Farm Bill this week.

With each legislative body offering a different version of a Farm Bill it is expected that a conference committee — members from the Senate and House — would convene to create a final approved version to be passed on to the President for final approval.

The Farm Bill has been labeled as the "Freedom to Farm" bill because it is seen as a way to eliminate government support for agriculture and let producer prices follow whatever market and processor demand allow.

The range of possible outcomes of total deregulation go from some predicting certain failure of remaining American independent family farms because of unfair pricing of agricultural commodities by developing nations, to visions of higher prices being paid to American farmers because production would reflect demand and not cause constant oversupply.

While details of the entire proposal have not been readily available to the general public, the staff of the state's different farm organizations have been active in picking up on recommendations from their respective national organizations and trying to gain public support for those positions.

On Feb. 23, the Pennsylvania State Grange, the Pennsylvania Farmer's Union, and Progressive Agriculture Organization held a joint press conference in the state Capital Rotunda denouncing the

(Turn to Page A22)



At the Pennsylvania Mule Day Tuesday on the farm of Henry Kauffman, Christiansa, in Lancaster County, several hundred Amish farmers and a few "English" stopped by to see a 20-mule team being hitched and driven by Jack Strode, mule trainer from Tennessee. One Amishman reported it was "quite a sight," and the Englishman agreed. For a visual report of the event, see Managing Editor Everett Newswanger's photo essay on pages A30-31.



Kelly West captures the New York State Dairy Princess title during pageant festivities last week. Turn to page B14 for pictures and story.