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Time Away From Chores Vital To Chester Conservation Farmers



These Chester County Conservation of the Year farmers make it a point to spend time as a family, one weekend a month, having fun — whether it's jumping off an eight-foot board into their one-acre farm pond, shooting hoops, or playing with their Collie, Tipper's, litter of puppies. And while there are lots of chores to be done, the owners pictured here — Ken and Marilyn Umble — know how important it is to get away from the tiestalls every once in a while and enjoy farm life. Photo by Andy Andrews

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
ATGLEN (Chester Co.) —
Near the large silo stands a basketball hoop. Across the streambank is nestled a pond with a diving board.

Below carefully manicured strip covers, in the "glen" that makes up part of the eastern section of the town of Atglen, is Glen Valley Farm.

And while there are lots of chores to be done, the owners — Ken and Marilyn Umble with children Brandon, 15, Jordan, 12, and Scott, 8 — know how important it is to get away from the tiestalls every once in a while and enjoy farm life.

Sometimes, said Marilyn, you just can't look at how much money it will cost you to bring in hired hands for relief on the weekends. "It's your health, and it's your mental health that I think you need to take care of that you can't always measure by money," she said. "You have to decide if some things are worth more than money."

These Chester County Conservation of the Year farmers make it a point to spend time as a family, one weekend a month, having fun. They often leave their farm to visit a hunting cabin in northern Pennsylvania. If they stay at home, fun involves jumping off an eight-foot board into their one-acre farm pond, shooting hoops, or playing with their Collie, Tipper's, litter of puppies.

When time comes to return to the daily, often dreary, farm chores, Marilyn admitted that the family can feel refreshed and maintain a positive outlook, despite times that are far from positive for dairy families.

"I struggle with my attitude some days," said Marilyn. "I think it is a matter of attitude. I try to help my boys not compare themselves to their non-farm friends."

Increasingly, farmers in Chester County have to deal with the reality that their children are in school with families that have little or no farm background.

For Marilyn, she said, "It's (Turn to Page A29)

Poultry Progress Days Examines Issues Affecting Industry

LOU ANN GOOD

Lancaster Farming Staff
LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.)

— The poultry industry heard good news at the annual Poultry Progress Day held on Thursday at the Farm and Home Center.

The good report showed that it is a relatively calm year for respiratory problems in birds, the county can look forward to a prosperous agriculture future, and the industry is way a head of the general farm population in implementing nutrient management proposals.

Producers learned about vaccine research, poultry disease and how to protect both flocks and themselves from harmful environments.

Dr. Michael Hulet of Penn State opened the educational seminar

with ways to lower broiler condemnations that result from over-scald, contamination, cadavers, bruises, tumors, synovitis, leukoses, air sacculitis, and septicemia.

The causes for condemnations are always the result of disease, processing failure and environmental mismanagement and may be resolved or at least decreased, Hulet said.

Winter ventilation plays havoc with many flocks. With charts and slides, Hulet showed how fluctuating temperatures affect birds and increase ammonia problems. He stressed the importance of static pressure to bring in air with enough velocity so that air circulates and is brought to the middle of the house before tumbling

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Speakers and officers of the Lancaster County Poultry Association include from left, George Georges, Don Brubaker, Barry Shaw, Alan Strock, Dr. Armando Mirande, Dr. Daniel Weinstock, Dr. David Kradel, Dr. John Schwartz, and Don Robinson.

Questions? They Had Answers At Bradford Dairy Days

CAROLYN N. MOYER

Bradford Co. Correspondent
EAST SMITHFIELD (Bradford Co.)—What's the best protection against skin cancer?

What's your leadership style?

How can I lower feed costs for my dairy herd?

These questions and more were answered at the annual Bradford County Dairy Day held at SRU Middle School in East Smithfield on Monday, Feb. 19, where farmers could sit in on educational programs, take advantage of free skin cancer screenings, and visit with the 47 commercial exhibitors.

While early spring weather makes many long to feel the strong, warm rays of the sun, others are living examples of the effects of prolonged sun exposure. According to the American Association of Dermatology, one out of

six will come down with skin cancer sometime in their life and there will be one million new cases this year alone.

In light of this information, nearly 50 people took advantage of the free skin cancer screenings offered by the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH) in conjunction with Bassett Hospital, Cooperstown, N.Y.

For some who underwent the screening, the process was all too familiar. Some had had cancerous lesions removed previously and others had suspicious marks which the physician's assistant in dermatology determined could be precancerous spots.

"It's a serious occupational hazard for farmers," said Carol Evans RN with NYCAMH. "This is our fifth year doing skin cancer

screenings in dairy farmers and we see a large amount of skin cancer."

NYCAMH is a regular at such shows as Empire Farm Days in

New York and has been to Ag Progress Days at Rockspring in the past. By offering free screenings, the farmers have an opportunity to

have a private checkup without having to make a special trip to the doctor.

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Nearly 50 exhibitors packed the gym of SRU High School during Bradford County's annual Dairy Day program. Besides visiting the exhibits, dairymen had the opportunity to hear educational programs, win door prizes and earn pesticide credits.