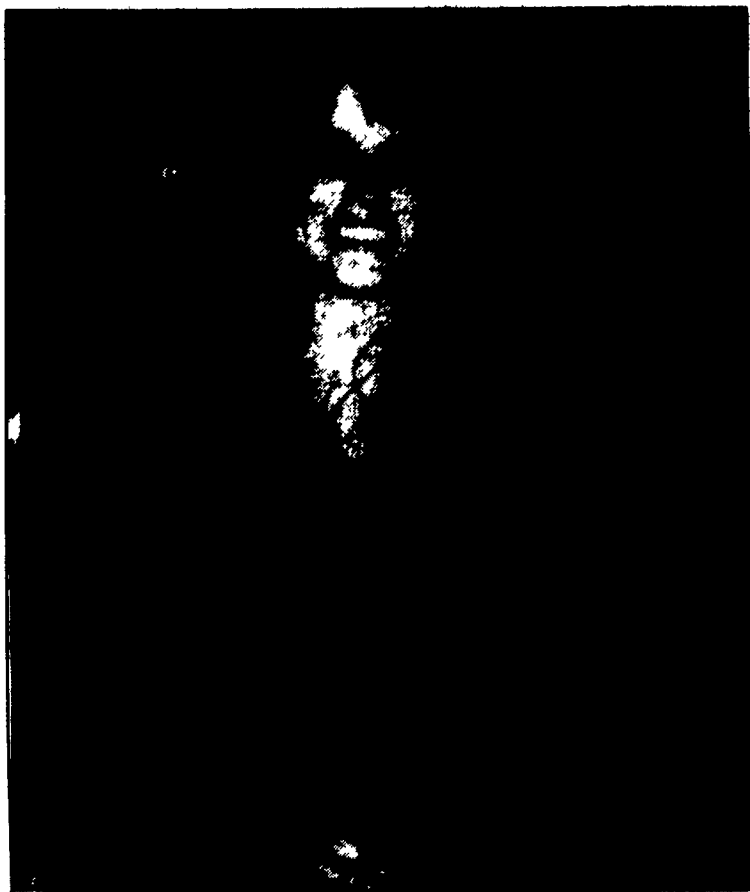




## Maryland Holstein Association Changes Name, Elects Officers



Kelli Savage holds the rotating trophy that accompanies the honor of being selected the overall junior.

### KAREN BUTLER

**Maryland Correspondent**  
**FREDERICK, Md.** — "Leap Forward With Maryland Holstein Genetics" was the theme of the 1996 Maryland Holstein Convention, held last weekend in Frederick and hosted by the Frederick County Holstein Association.

Breeders from across the state came together for the annual meeting, election of officers and board of directors, and presentation of Breed Improvement, Progressive Breeder, and other awards.

After a successful sale on Thursday, the annual business meeting was first on the agenda for Friday morning. Convention Chairs Tom and Bonnie Remsburg welcomed those in attendance to Frederick County, where 32,000 cows provide 30 percent of all milk products in Maryland. The business meeting was conducted by outgoing President Charles Iager.

Judy Iager received warm thanks for nearly two decades of service as publicity chair for the Association. Mrs. Iager stepped down after 18 years as chairperson

of the Publicity Committee.

In addition to the many other hats she wears, Marylanders have Judy as the state editor for Southeastern Holstein News.

National Holstein Association representative Clarence Stauffer offered some thoughts on possible changes in cow classification programs.

There will be a proposal to do away with lowering scores on cows. Only 12 percent of cows are

now lowered in score, and Canada does not currently lower cows.

A Junior program for Juniors to score herds is also being looked into.

Mr. Stauffer encouraged breeders to use the "A Value" in marketing their cows. He said the "A Value" refers to good cow families; it's based solely on the female side, and is a ranking of cows based on cow families. It has

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## Eckel To Step Down As Farm Bureau President

### VERNON ACHENBACH JR.

**Lancaster Farming Staff**  
**CAMP HILL (Cumberland Co.)** — During a special press meeting last week, Keith Eckel, president of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, announced his resignation effective April 1 and the assumption of office by current Vice President Guy Donaldson.

The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau is an independent, non-governmental, voluntary organiza-

tion which represents 25,851 member-families in 54 county units (There are 67 counties in Pennsylvania, therefore some grassroots level organizations cross county boundaries.)

Eckel has presided over the organization for 15 years, while being in partnership with a brother on a 1,400-acre field crop and green wrap tomato production and marketing operation.

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## Potato Growers Should Spray When Conditions Point To Late Blight

### ANDY ANDREWS

**Lancaster Farming Staff**  
**WILLOW STREET (Lancaster Co.)** — An ounce of fungicide is worth tons of culled potatoes, to parody a familiar expression. In other words, American potato growers shouldn't wait until they see signs of late blight to start spraying fungicide.

In fact, waiting until the fungus appears and begins devastating a crop could be extremely costly and create long-term problems with fungus control, according to a Michigan State University plant pathologist.

Dr. Willie Kirk spoke about the challenges Michigan growers

faced in the past two years with late blight outbreaks. He spoke Wednesday on the first of a two-day event at the 45th annual Potato Growers Institute and 80th annual meeting at the Willow Valley Convention Center.

What is becoming frightening, researchers agree, is that the new strain of fungus has become more virulent, can survive freezing temperatures, and is developing resistance to common fungicide treatments.

Kirk said the fungus is like any living organism and simply wants to survive. To do so, it changes its characteristics to promote its own survival, according to the

pathologist.

"Fungicides force the 'hand' of the fungus, force the fungus to be something else," said Kirk. Kirk indicated that with the current varieties grown, there is a "very thin line" between survival and complete devastation.

Kirk presented a history of the late blight disease, which may have been present during the Great

Potato Famine in 1845 in Ireland. But there is no way to prove strains of the fungus have been around since then, since there are no isolates from that period.

One strain, A2, which spread from Central Mexico, is common in many areas of the world. In 1992, different, more virulent and survivable strains, US7 and US8, came into the eastern U.S. and

Canada. In the 1994 potato blight outbreak common to the eastern U.S., strains of US1 and US8 were predominant. In 1995, "almost all cases" of late blight were the US8 strain. US8 is moving to California and to the Rocky Mountain states, including Idaho.

The US8 strain is "extremely virulent, produces a lot of spores,

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## Sheep Referendum Vote: Yes

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman announced recently that a proposed national promotion, research, and information program for sheep and wool has passed in an industry wide referendum.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, an agency in the marketing and regulatory program mission area, has oversight responsibility for federal research

and promotion programs. AMS Administrator Lon Hatamiya said, "Of the 19,801 valid ballots cast in the Feb. 6 referendum, 10,707 (54.1 percent) favored and 9,094 (45.9 percent) opposed implementation of the Sheep and Wool Promotion, Research, Education, and Information Order."

Of those persons voting in the referendum who cast valid ballots,

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## Corn Talk, Custom Rates Published

A special section this week in *Lancaster Farming* is *Corn Talk*, which features information useful to the corn grower. *Corn Talk*, from the Pennsylvania Master Corn Growers Association (PMCGA), is published three times per year as a feature of the newspaper. Included in this section are reports on the Pennsylvania Five-Acre Corn Club contest, on-farm interviews, research information, and advertising messages.

In addition, on page D10, the spring custom rates are published from the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service.



## Dairy Council Celebrates 76 Years

The 76th annual meeting of Dairy Council, Inc., was held Thursday morning. At the meeting are from left, Ivo Otto, Jr., vice president; Robert Winner, new president; and Robert McSparran, retiring president. See story page A26.