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# Dutch Belted Cattle Make Comeback On Rotational Grazing Farms



The Dutch Belted "cookie" calf is shown by children of Roman and Lucy Stoltzfoos, Gap Road, Lancaster County. After appearing on The American Livestock Breeds Conservancy's critical list, the Dutch Belted cattle breed is making a comeback because these animals adapt quite readily to rotational grazing programs. Showing the calf is from left, Josh, 4; Charlene, 8; Clifford, 6; Delmar, 10; and Caleb, 2.

EVERETT NEWSWANGER  
Managing Editor

EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) — When you hear a dairyman, especially a grassland farmer, affectionately talk about his Oreo cookies, he may not be talking about a famous registered name snack that has white cream sandwiched between two chocolate cakes and is eaten with milk. The grasslander's Oreo cookies most likely have four legs, a head and tail, and are expected to give the milk that is eaten with cookies.

With the surge in input and overhead costs in the dairy operation, farmers are turning to less costly ways of doing things. The method of choice that has emerged is called rotational grazing. Since the cow has a front end chopper and a rear end manure spreader, she can do the harvesting and fertilizing in one operation while supplying milk

and meat to provide a living for the farmer.

The genetics bred into today's cows made them adaptable to the mechanized, high grain feeding programs in confinement operations. These cows produce lots of milk at a very young age to cover the increasing costs of the operation. A never ending treadmill of higher and higher production taking higher and higher inputs puts more and more stress on the feeding program and the cow.

Environmentalism and animal rights notwithstanding, economics has turned the minds and farming operations of many dairymen back to a less industrialized program. And with this new emphasis on economy rather than production, a new kind of cow is emerging. A cow that can and will walk the pas-

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## Carl Shaffer Elected Vice President Of Farm Bureau

CAMP HILL (Cumberland Co.) — Carl Shaffer of Mifflinville, Columbia County, has been elected vice president of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB). Shaffer was elected during a meeting of the PFB State Board of Directors. He was one of four candidates for the position.

The election was held to fill a vacancy created by the succession of former vice president Guy Donaldson to the office of PFB president. Former president Keith Eckel resigned April 1. Both Donaldson and Shaffer will stand for re-election during PFB's annual meeting in November.

Shaffer has served as one of the 16 district directors on the PFB State Board of Directors since 1994. He represents Farm Bureau members in the Columbia, Luzer-

ne and Schuylkill/Carbon county farm bureaus. Before becoming a state board member, he was a local farm leader serving over the years as a board member, vice president, president and legislative chairman of the Columbia County Farm Bureau.

PFB is a voluntary, non-governmental organization which represents 25,851 member families in 54 county farm bureaus.

Shaffer, who owns a 300-acre grain and vegetable operation, recently received the Master Farmer Award from Pennsylvania Farmer magazine and Penn State University Cooperative Extension. He also farms 700 rented acres with the help of two full-time employees and one part-time

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## Effects Of Grain Prices Affect All Agriculture

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — The sharp spike in grain prices has affected the entire production agriculture sector, causing producers to scramble to find low cost or alternative feeds in order to keep down production costs.

At the same time, prices for beef and cull cows are depressed and though reports of certain processors being inundated with cattle could not be confirmed by deadline, it is expected that there are a lot of meat cattle available for slaughter.

In Kenneth Kephart's column "Pork Prose" (see page C3 this issue) he outlines possible alternative feeds, though he notes that "... most are too expensive to consider, some are barely competitive" to corn.

Others have reported a market tightness on seeds, especially some of the newer bio-engineered versions resistant to herbicides, or designed with insect larva resistance.

For the local dairy industry, reports are that some have tight supplies or poor silage feed values because of last year's late-season

drought affecting carbohydrate formation.

Those who depend upon all purchased feeds can be expected to be suffering in this perhaps unprecedented situation of high feed prices, high operating costs, low availability of feed and strong and anticipated stronger demand.

On top of this, fuel prices recently surged, and can be expected to

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## American Lamb Producers Must Market A Leaner, Consistent Product

ANDY ANDREWS  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — American lamb producers are simply growing a product that is too fat — leading many packers and processors to seek a leaner product from countries such as Australia and New Zealand.

And if American producers want to seriously contend with local markets, they must turn out a high quality, lean, consistent lamb in the 65-75 pound dressweight

range. Those were some of the messages that about 25 lamb producers heard by a lamb merchandiser and university meats specialist on Tuesday night at a Penn-State sponsored Lamb Merchandising Workshop at the Farm and Home Center.

Bill Fox, president of Fox's Market (with stores in Middletown, Hershey, Harrisburg, and Camp Hill) has been in business

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## Pa.DHIA Board Reorganizes



The Pa.DHIA board of directors recently held a reorganizational meeting. From the left in the front row are Lane Sollenberger, president; Norman Hershey, vice president; Neal McCulloch, secretary; and Ralph Gilkinson, executive committee member. In the second row, from the left are Marion Butler, Luke Rebeck, Donald Duncan, Brookes Smith, Frank Orner, and George Cudoc. In the back row, from the left are John Brodzina, Adam Derr, Steve Mowry, John Wilcox and William Irie. Not shown is Dale Hoover, treasurer.