

Adams Farm Bureau Holds Meeting

Milk Tester On Job For Herd's Lifetime

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

VINTAGE (Lancaster Co.) — In the old days, they were called milk testers. But now they have a much more sophisticated title: technicians. Somewhere in the middle of time, they also had been called supervisors.

Harold Probst, Georgetown, has come through all the names while serving dairy farmers in Lancaster DHIA for 39 years in the Quarryville, Kinzers, Gap, and surrounding areas. Later this month an era will end.

No, Harold is not retiring. Ken Beiler, one of his farmers, is selling his herd, a herd that Harold has tested for all 31 years it has been in existence. And in all those 31 years, Harold missed only one month when he was at a DHIA seminar at Penn State.

when that happened. Now it is a rather common occurrence."

Harold also adapted to change over the years. From the old centrifuge, whirling out the butterfat tests to modern testing equipment, and computers to do a lot of the crunch work Harold has seen the progression of the dairy industry.

"Yes, I have enjoyed testing for Ken over the years," Harold said. "It wouldn't be the same not coming here to test."

Harold Probst and Ken Beiler have a lot of memories built around 31 years of obtaining DHIA records, good memories that have made them friends for a life.



Lancaster Dairy Herd Improvement Assoc
1582 Old Line Rd. Manheim, PA 17545
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YORK SPRINGS (Adams Co.) — The annual spring meeting of the Adams County Farm Bureau was held recently at the York Springs Community Fire Hall with a commodity queen reception preceding the business meeting.

"The purpose of the meeting is to familiarize the membership with special programs and business services offered to our members, such as the insurance, farm management benefits, Safemark products, and the legislative efforts conducted by the special committees," said committee chairperson Fred Kammerer.

Also included in the program were the legislative update reports from the Governmental Relations Committees after meeting with state and national legislators in Washington, D.C. and Harrisburg. National representatives John Peters and Ed Wilkinson met with Congressman Goodling and urged his support of agricultural issues. State representatives Chris Baugher and John Hess met with

State Representative Steve Maitland, Rep. Steve Nichols, and Sen. Terry Punt, who also endorsed the farming issues facing the county. In addition, Governor Ridge was contacted for a few moments to hear of agricultural concerns.

The members of the organization in attendance voted to redistrict the county. This will divide the county into four equal sections based on membership. By redistricting, the board will now consist of two board members from each section and four board members at large enabling a more supportive

and comprehensive board membership. Each board member will serve two years as one term and the chairperson from the Women's Committee will act as an ex officio member with equal voting rights. The new districts will be: District I - Franklin, Menallen; District II - Butler, Huntington, Latimore, Reading, Tyrone; District III - Berwick, Hamilton, Conewago, Germany, Oxford, Mount Pleasant, Straban, Union; District IV - Cumberland, Freedom, Hamiltonban, Highland, Liberty, Mount Joy.

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When you visit a farm for 750 milkings (that's over a year's worth of days) you get to know the farmer, and the farmer gets to know you rather well. At 5 a.m. sitting under an uncooperative cow next to the barn cleaning gutter does not always bring out the best personality traits in a person. But for Harold and Ken and their families, the rigors of these monthly meetings has forged a bond of friendship that will never be broken.

Their experiences go beyond these early morning and late night meetings at the rear end of the cows. Simultaneous deaths in their families brought them closer together. And Harold likes to tell how he got stuck in Ken's dad's farm lane the first month he tested their herd as a new, young person on the job. Since that first month, Harold and Ken have known each other, and when Ken and his brothers started farming, Harold took on their herds as well. Now a nephew is the third generation on the home Beiler farm under Harold's supervision.

"Harold has always been part of the family," Ken said. "And we depended on his work through the years. He was always very meticulous with the figures and always gave us confidence we had the correct information."

Over the years changes have been seen. The herd average went from 14,000 pounds in the early days to 20,000 pounds now. While the number of cows in the herd only increased from 40 to 55, individual records increased to the present 30,000m and 1,200f. "I remember when we first had cows that milked 100 pounds of milk a day," Ken said. "We went out to eat

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