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Lancaster Farming

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Werleys Named Berks Farm Family



The Berks County Farm Family of the Year is the Werley family from Hamburg. They pose with one of their favorite cows, Sonnen-Springs Marv Camera, VG-88, with excellent

udder and lifetime over 100,000m. From left are, Pamela, Angela, Matthew, Phil at halter, Donna, and Melissa. Photo by Everett Newswanger, managing editor.

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

HAMBURG (Berks Co.) — For the new Berks County Farm Family of the Year, farming is in their blood. Phil and Donna Werley and their children Angela 18, Melissa 17, Pamela 12, and Matthew 5, farm 195 acres northeast of town, along Blue Mountain. The family was honored at the 41st annual outstanding farm family awards banquet Wednesday evening at the Fleetwood Grange Hall.

You will also know Angela as the Berks County dairy princess. She is studying dairy and animal science at the Berks campus of Penn State with one more semester to go before transferring to the main campus in State College.

Melissa was one of the members of the Berks County dairy bowl team that won in Pittsburgh at the National Holstein Convention last year.

Under the Phil-Don Farm prefix, they milk 68 registered and grade Holsteins and have 67 heifers and calves. A home-bred excellent and five very good cows are part of the herd. Angela and Melissa each own 19 or more mature cows, heifers, and calves in the herd, and Pamela is known for her championship showmanship abilities.

The sisters banter good-naturally about whose cows give the most

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PennAg To Consider Opening Council, Merger With PAPA

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) — A possible merger between PennAg Industries Association and the Pennsylvania Agronomic Products Association (PAPA) is to be considered Tuesday during a meeting at the Eden Resort.

The meeting is being held between the executive committee of Penn Ag and a PAPA committee.

If the meeting results in the PAPA committee approving of such a move, then PennAg leadership may have something fairly substantial to present to its members on the issue when it holds its 118th convention at the Hotel Hershey Sept. 16 and 17.

The discussions between PennAg and PAPA are but one effort by those with a stake in representing Pennsylvania's agribusiness to improve political strength and reduce duplication of effort.

The most apparently logical strategy would be for one group to serve as a big tent for all the other organizations, according to Dave Brubaker, executive vice president of the PennAg.

As it is now, there are about 100

different agribusiness organizations or associations, Brubaker said. Some of the members of PennAg, which is the largest agribusiness association in the state, belong to several different trade associations, all primarily with a

similar mission, especially when it comes to legislative issues.

The proposal is for PennAg to serve as the host for the industry council, with the council representing, not eliminating, independent

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Pork Quality Assurance Necessary, Has Real Benefits

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — By signing up under the Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) Program, producers could experience a \$2-\$3 per hundredweight decrease in production costs.

Signing up for PQA is not complicated, according to pork professionals who spoke to about 75 producers and agri-industry representatives at a meeting at the Farm and Home Center in Lancaster last week. The meeting was co-sponsored by Penn State.

The decrease in production costs as a result of using PQA was

pointed out in a study conducted by the Ohio Pork Producers Association.

Pennsylvania has a similar program, adopted by the guidelines written almost a decade ago by the National Pork Producers Council.

As for Pennsylvania's program, "a lot of producers just don't know about it," said Duff George, Hatfield's hog buyer. George said the PQA meeting was part of the important educational process, "not an obstacle" for producers.

Hatfield is using the program to bolster marketing of its products overseas. According to John Rei-

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Jersey Supreme At Maryland State Fair

LOIS SZYMANSKI
Maryland Correspondent
TIMONIUM, Md. — Among the many exhibitors at the recent 10-day Maryland State Fair were some of the finest dairy cattle from across the nation. On separate days throughout the week each breed held their own open show. Represented were Holsteins, Guernseys, Ayrshires, Brown Swiss, Jerseys, and Milking Shorthorns. On Monday morning, September 2, the Grand Champion of each breed division was brought into the ring at the conclusion of the open Holstein show. Judge Robert Morrell was joined by Paul Miller, and Dr. Angelo Pozzetti of the Italian Brown Swiss Association. Together, they carefully evaluated each breed champion. Then, a sparkling Supreme Champion of Show for the 1996 Maryland State Fair was chosen. The Grand Champion Jersey cow quickly became Supreme Cham-



Douglas King, (holding the trophy) and partner, Michael Heath, celebrate their supreme champion dairy cow, Sparklers Unique Jeanna at the Maryland State Fair.

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