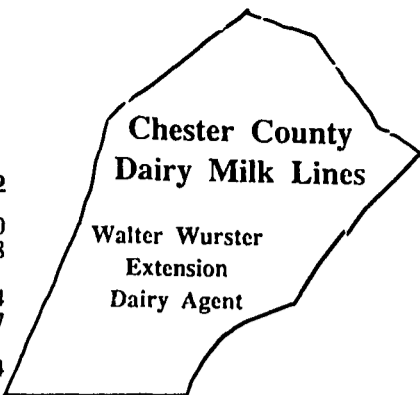


Chester County DHIA - July 1996
Cows producing over 800 lbs. protein are:

Name	Breed	Age	Milk	Fat	Pro
Leon D. Kurtz					
Botch	H	6-00	27,104	966	910
Puff	H	4-00	26,264	749	808
Robert & Sharon Nolan					
Cleo	H	3-05	22,753	899	804
Prancer	H	3-09	24,567	879	807
Gerald L. Kulp & Sons					
43	H	4-11	25,301	944	844
Neal & Lou King					
Fame	H	4-06	27,646	984	816
Mable	H	4-08	26,915	1252	969
Angel	H	4-02	30,000	975	803
Katelyn	H	0-00	22,943	949	811
Levi S. King					
Sugar	H	2-11	25,436	661	800
Crystal Ray Farm					
Hope	H	3-10	23,504	956	823
Ridge Star Farm,					
17	H	3-10	27,984	1022	845
Tim & Phyllis Barlow					
June	H	4-03	28,578	1132	933
Rain	H	3-04	25,556	933	825
Today	H	3-00	22,862	1069	831
Sharon	H	3-01	25,138	828	816
Sabrina	H	4-07	24,455	714	820
Walmore Inc. #3					
703	H	4-09	28,104	1038	831
3017	H	4-00	26,017	879	801
3046	H	3-08	27,801	958	863
3076	H	3-01	27,338	1112	890
Rodney Bare					
99	H	6-10	31,582	1230	968
50	H	5-07	28,487	1073	903
Century Oak Farm					
Minam	H	4-08	27,099	896	859
Richard Hostetter					
92	H	3-00	26,457	885	804
Dale Hostetter					
Dolly	H	5-05	25,832	897	851
Allison	H	4-03	29,803	955	853
Harold R. Kulp					
Kip	H	4-09	24,288	824	803
Maplesway Farm					
Echo	H	4-01	26,132	977	892
Melwood Farm					
Whitney	H	6-05	24,443	889	802
Nolan King					
Elsie	H	3-05	25,151	714	834
Daisy	H	6-11	26,060	872	823
Breck-A-De Farm					
177	H	7-02	35,864	1266	1058
421	H	3-09	29,943	1216	984
442	H	3-04	25,790	929	813
Per Valley Farm					
56	H	6-07	27,321	788	844



This will be my last column for Lancaster Farming. I will be retiring on September 30th. We have been assured that my position will be replaced with basically the same job description as I have been operating under the past seven years — dairy, agronomy, 4-H dairy & tractor safety and water quality. How soon a new agent will be hired is uncertain at this time.

My first career after graduating from Penn State was developing, with my family, a successful dairy farm and a herd of Registered Holsteins which I operated for over 30 years. When my knees and hips began showing the wear and tear of milking in a stall barn, I was lucky enough to find an opportunity to be an Extension agent in Chester County. It has been a very satisfying experience because of the great farm families and residents of the county that I have had the privilege to know and work with. I will probably still do some volunteer work if I am asked because I am told that the most important priority for a successful retirement is to keep busy. As I look into the crystal ball

and consider how Extension can best serve the dairy industry and specifically Chester County farmers, I see some positive signs for the future. The County Commissioners are taking a serious look at how they can give farmer owners some tax relief using new updated values for Act 319, the Clean & Green Law. I have been working on this project for a number of years and with new assessments coming out in early 1997, final values are being refined at this time.

Another area is Penn State's initiative to develop programs in the future that will target the needs of the Pennsylvania dairy industry. The former dairy agent in the county, Dave Swartz, told me that I would really have to be on my toes to keep ahead of the dairy farmers in Chester County. Well, was he ever right! It seems that whenever a new, innovative idea came along during the past seven years, I would get a call from a dairy farmer. Of course, that is what made the job so interesting. I believe that Extension programs in the future will focus more on one, two or three-day workshops that will be on specific subjects. When a farmer completes a session he or she will have an in-depth understanding of the topic and be comfortable applying the principles learned on their operation.

With all the information that is available to farmers today, sometimes the biggest problem is separating the wheat from the chaff; or what is applicable to a particular farm and what is totally useless for that farm. One of the

strongest assets of Extension is that it is a non-partisan evaluator of ideas and applications that are proposed by agri-business. Many ideas appear great on the surface, but cannot stand the test of controlled research conducted at universities. It is important that Extension agents continue to work with and support agri-business while at the same time being objective in evaluating products and concepts. I have really enjoyed working with the 4-H program and I am indebted to the volunteer leaders that have contributed so much of their time to make the program successful. Teaching kids values, leadership and information is the best way to insure a sound agricultural industry in the future.

I have always been a positive thinker — I believe the glass is half full, not half empty. Therefore, I have faith that the dairy industry and the farming community in Chester County will continue to be strong because of the quality of people who are driving the tractors and caring for the livestock. My thoughts and prayers will be with you as we all move into the 21st century.



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