

Maryland Dairy Association Takes Form

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
FREDERICK, Md. — A Maryland dairy association representing dairy producers is starting to take form, following an organizational meeting held Dec. 13.

The creation of an association has been called for by the state's dairy leaders for several years, because of a lack of representation by dairy producers' concerns in developing Maryland policies.

In the meantime, despite close proximity to markets and a natural environment conducive to dairy production, the political and business environment has been such that the state's dairy farmers have been disappearing quickly.

While the dairy processors of Maryland and its other leading agricultural commodity producers have associations to promote their respective sectors, the dairy producers have not enjoyed the benefit of having a strong, recognizable association promoting producer concerns.

The need for such an organization was recognized by the 1993 Maryland Dairy Task Force — an assemblage of people created by the Maryland General Assembly and tasked to investigate and make recommendations upon the health of the state's dairy industry.

It recommended the formation of a dairy association, among other actions to improve the business environment for its in-state dairy industry.

The issue was raised again during a public hearing on the preliminary findings of the 1996 Maryland Dairy Task Force, by Myron Wilhide, a Carroll County dairy farmer, leader in the Maryland

Farm Bureau, and member of that task force.

At the time, Wilhide said that the 1996 task force was the third task force including, and since, 1993, and that he served on all three.

One of the main reasons for establishing a dairy producer-interest association is to help establish the political muscle necessary to bring about public recognition of the efforts of the dairy task forces and the current recommendations.

For example, the 1996 Dairy Task Force, in its preliminary recommendations report, called for the Maryland Legislature to provide its state secretary of agriculture with the authority to set minimum retail and wholesale prices on milk, similar to the authority held by the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board, and that of the Virginia.

During the hearing of the preliminary 1996 Task Force findings, Wilhide announced that a Nov. 26 informational meeting would be held to gauge producer interest in supporting an association.

Wilhide said that as a result of that informational meeting, held at the New Midway Fire Hall, about 130 people attended, representing well the state's dairy producer regions.

With the consensus that a producer organization would be supported, out of those 130, 24 people representing the various regions were selected, again through consensus, to form an interim board of directors.

The interim board more recently met on Dec. 13 at the Frederick County Extension Office and

established an interim set of bylaws, officers and several committees.

The board is to meet again 10:30 a.m., Jan. 21, again at the Frederick Extension Office.

During the Dec. 13 meeting, the interim officers elected by the interim board were Wilhide, as president; Janet Stile, of Boonsboro, vice president; and Laura Kaminsky, Wentz, secretary/treasurer.

Stiles is a member of a dairy farm family, while Kaminsky is a field representative for the Maryland Farm Bureau.

The Maryland Farm Bureau is allowing the use of its headquarters building in Randallstown to serve as a temporary office for the dairy association.

Formation of committees and committee appointments were held as key because of the need to act quickly to be properly prepared to represent the state's dairy producers when the state Legislature begins work in January.

Edwin Fry, of Chestertown, a dairy farmer, was appointed as chair of the Legislative Coalition Committee. Other members of the Coalition Committee are William Godwin of Hagerstown, Jesse Burall of Monrovia, Harold Lenhart of Utica, and Sean Jones of Massey.

The committee was assigned a priority — to help line up sponsorship for intended proposed legislation, "Fairness in Milk Marketing Act."

The committee is to attempt to seek legislative vehicles to institute the recommendations of the 1996 Dairy Task Force.

According to Wilhide, "We've had the Task Force working real

hard in addressing the problems of the dairy industry in Maryland."

He said that the association needs to support those findings, which include creating fairness in milk marketing legislation; extending milk dating; supporting Maryland dairy industry and getting programs developed; bringing farmers up to speed in marketing and technology; and to be part of guiding research and programs in the University of Maryland for dairy production.

"The first thing is to get (those recommendations) into legislation," Wilhide said.

Wilhide, of Keysville, is in partnership with brother Richard on the 600-acre family farm where they milk 160 grade Holsteins. They ship milk to Mid-America Dairymen.

Their farm has been in the family for about 130 years.

Wilhide said that although he has been involved in organizations, such as the Farm Bureau, this is the first time he has helped establish an organization.

The Farm Bureau, he said, does an excellent job of representing commodity groups in the state.

"The Farm Bureau has been very eager to support, in Annapolis, that which needs to be supported. It's just a matter that they can't speak for dairy farmers," Wilhide said.

In other initial committee formation, Stiles was named to head a Membership and Finance Committee. Other members are Will Godwin of Hagerstown, Fern Hines of Union Bridge, Jere F. DeBaugh of Boonsboro, and Stanley Fultz of New Market who is the extension dairy science agent for

Frederick County.

The Membership and Finance Committee recommended, and it was agreed to by the interim board during the Dec. 13 meeting, that association dues would be \$40 per member with each member having a vote.

Although not yet established, it was discussed that dues for those wishing to be charter members may be higher.

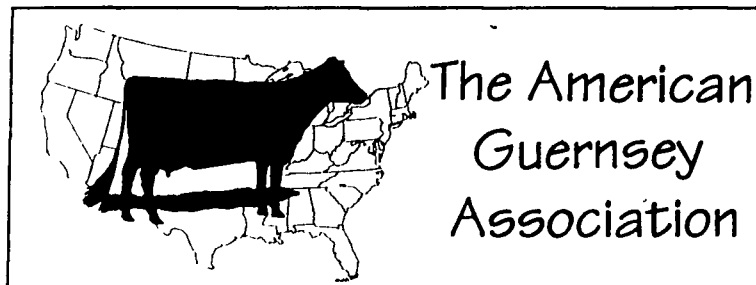
A Publicity Committee was also formed with Robert Peters, a milking management specialist; T. Milton Nelson, agricultural editor of the Cooperative Extension Service at University of Maryland; and Nola Ramsburg of Walkersville. Becky Long, the assistant farm editor of the Frederick News-Post is an ex-officio member.

That committee is set to create an association newsletter that would be jointly sponsored by the Maryland Department of Agriculture and the cooperative extension service.

Wilhide said the newsletter is to go to every dairyman in Maryland, informing of the association, goals, objectives and membership. The newsletter is to be used for the exchange of ideas, he said.

In the meantime, he said that what dairy farmers can do is to be willing to talk to their respective legislators and to consumers about the importance of the dairy industry to the state and to its communities.

For more information, call Myron Wilhide at (410) 775-7201; Laura Kaminsky at (410) 922-3426; Robert Peters at (301) 405-1401; T. Milton Nelson at (301) 405-4596; or Janet Stiles at (301) 582-2178.



Tom Dee Grand At Kentucky

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio — Judge Murray Reisner of Ontario, Canada, placed the 199 Guerneys shown at the last National Guernsey Show of the year.

In a very close placing between grand champion and reserve grand champion, Westlyn Tom Dee once again stole the show at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky.

This Westlyn Emory Tom daughter, an Excellent-95 aged cow, is no stranger to the winner's circle. She has been crowned grand champion at the World Dairy Expo for the past four consecutive years and has production records to 26,540M 4.8% 1,284F 3.6% 961P at 5-11 in 365 days. "Tom Dee" was exhibited by the partnership of Mark Rueth, Randy Kortus and Clark and Joy Vilter of Hartland, Wisconsin.

Reserve grand champion went to the first place senior 3-year-old, Land of Living O Jamillynn, exhibited by the Austin and Lucas Ayars of Mechanicsburg, Ohio. "Jamillynn" is an Excellent-92 Myown Odim daughter.

In the race for junior champion, Lone Acres Perfecto Catie once again rose to the top. "Catie," the first place intermediate yearling sired by Lily Lane Penny Perfecto, was exhibited by Quinn DeBruin of Lake Mills, Wisconsin.

Reserve junior champion went to the first place junior yearling heifer, Round Pond Mark Lou, shown by Austin and Lucas Ayars of Mechanicsburg, Ohio. "Lou" is a Round Pond Fayette's Mark daughter and was also junior champion of the junior show at Louisville.

The Total Performance Winner and Nasco International Type and Production Award was presented to Round Pond Fayette's Molly. "Molly," an Excellent-94 Dutch Mill Telestars Fayette daughter, has records to 36,150M* 5.2% 1,831F* 3.7% 1,333P* at 5-02 in 365 days.

The Total Performance award is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Guernsey Breeders Association in memory of Lee Yost. This award is presented to the cow earning the most points for production, show placing, yield deviation, appraisal

Iola Wins Guernsey Futurity

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio — The coliseum of the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky, darkened while the spotlight shined on ring-center.

The stakes were high as the total pot of the 1996 Guernsey Gold Futurity was \$3,200.

For the third consecutive year, Marfred Farms of Saluda, South Carolina, owned part of the winning Futurity animal. Their partner and leadsman was Charlie Kelly.

Selected by Judge Murray Reisner of Ontario, Canada, Marfred Bossman Iola, was presented with

the first place Futurity banner sponsored by E.R. Berousek of Yukon, Oklahoma.

This Excellent-91 Marfred Bossman daughter has production records over 17,000 pounds of milk.

In addition to the banner, "Iola" received the Shirley Wright Memorial Award, a silver champagne cooler, sponsored by Leroy and Nita Lindley and Ralph and Martha Turley of Ohio. "Iola" won \$836 and was presented with the best udder award sponsored by Good-As-Gold Guerneys of Hilmar, California.

Going home with the second place silver tray sponsored by Dr.

John O. Mozier and Family of Stanley, Kansas, was Four Winds Perf Lotus.

This 87-point Lily Lane Penny Perfecto-ET daughter is owned by Clark and Joy Vilter of Hartland, Wisconsin, and has production records over 17,000 pounds of milk. "Lotus" won \$583.50 for her second place share of the pot and received the best bred and owned silver tray sponsored by Carlton Wenger of Goshen, Indiana.

SC Sunny Day Perfect Yell-ET, an 88-point Lily Lane Penny Perfecto-ET daughter, made a clean sweep of all the production awards.

Owned by Herby Lutz of Chester, South Carolina, "Yell" has records to 19,480M 5.1% 986F 3.5% 688P at 2-05 in 305 days.

"Yell" received a silver water pitcher for the high milk award sponsored by American Breeders Service of DeForest, Wisconsin; the high butterfat production silver tray sponsored by Marfred Farms of Saluda, South Carolina; and the high protein cheese tray sponsored by Tri-State Milk Cooperative of West Salem, Wisconsin.

"Yell" also won the Betty Kessler Memorial Award sponsored by Bay Meadows Farms of Galt, California, for the high CPI cow award.

This year's first junior award went to Twin Brook Perfect Jasmine owned by Randi Marchezak of Bentleyville, Pennsylvania. This 87-point Lily Lane Penny Perfecto daughter took home a beautiful picture frame sponsored by Branstetter Dairy of Edmon-ton, Kentucky.

Showmanship Results

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio — In the 1996 national Guernsey showmanship contest, the first champion of the day was Brian Schweierjohn of Pocahontas, Illinois.

Brian and his senior yearling heifer, Lambrecht Sentry Connie, received first place honors in the

score and bonus points if the animal is bred by the owner.

Marfred Farm of Saluda, South Carolina, was awarded with the prestigious premier breeder and premier exhibitor banners.

Ohio once again placed first in the state herd contest. South Carolina placed second and Wisconsin was third.

The American Guernsey Association is the national organization for the registration and promotion of Guernsey cattle and is headquartered in Reynoldsburg, Ohio.

junior showmanship class for exhibitors nine to 12 years of age.

Brian was presented with a plaque and a \$100 savings bond by Dan and Loretta Mithoefer of Silver Lake, Indiana, sponsors of all first place awards.

Sarah Herges of Livingston, Wisconsin, filled the second place spot nicely with the help of a 4-year-old cow, Ocooch Fayette Meka. She received a \$50 savings bond and certificate donated by Fowler Branstetter and Family of Edmon-ton, Kentucky.

Rounding out the top three in the junior contest was Anne Marchezak of Bentleyville, Pennsylvania, with her intermediate heifer calf, Twin Brook Magic Georgie. Fowler Branstetter and Family also donated the show halter that Anne received for her efforts.

The intermediate showmanship

(Turn to Page A30)