# Land 'O Lakes, Atlantic Co-ops Closer To Merger

#### (Continued from Page A1)

approval actions, a schedule for the distribution of the plan and membership votes was not included.

Atlantic is a 3,600-member dairy cooperative headquartered in Southampton, Pennsylvania, that markets and process milk in the Middle Atlantic region.

Land 'O Lakes is a Arden Hills, Minnesota-based food and agricultural cooperative owned by farmers and ranchers, including 3,800 dairy producers and 1,000 member cooperatives in a 19-state region.

ADC does have a booth at the Pennsylvania State Farm Show (Jan. 11-16) in Harrisburg where the public is invited to ask questions about membership. ADC is to set up its booth on the first floor of the Northeast Building in the

Farm Show Complex. (See the Farm Show layout map and exhibitor listing on pages E18-19 in this issue of Lancaster Farming.)

The two organizations have been business partners since 1980, when ADC began producing butter for establishing a new, national for Land 'O Lakes at ADC Holly Milk facility near Carlisle. Today ADC is one of Land 'O Lakes largest members.

In the news release, the chief executive officers of both organizations stated their strong support, and that of their respective boards, for merging.

"This is an exciting opportunity organization that is committed to creating value-added markets for members and to delivering costeffective, on-farm production programs," John E. Gherty, president and CEO of Land 'O Lakes said in the news release.

"We have intensively studied the ways by which we could provide greater long-term value and returns to our members through expanded product manufacturing, creation of a branded, value-added market and access to a wider range of agricultural programs, products

and expertise," stated Robert Dever, ADC CEO.

"Our board and management very strongly believe that by mergin with Land 'O Lakes we will achieve each one of these goals."

Both Gherty and Dever said the two cooperatives would provide members with comprehensive information on the proposal prior to a vote on consolidation.





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