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JIMANDOT Holsteins Grows Greenhouse Calves

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
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MILLBACH (Lebanon Co.) — Dairy farmers Jim and Dot Bennetch of Millbach raise

their registered Holstein calves in a "greenhouse." Sort of. Calling a building consisting of ribbed supports and a skin of white

plastic a "greenhouse" may be popular, but it seems inaccurate. Especially when the building is designed to house cattle. A "greenhouse" describes a

house for greenery, not Holsteins. But this past year has seen the term become widely applied to describe lightweight, less expensive dairy cattle facilities.

In general, before the use of carbon-chain plastics, a "greenhouse" generally was made of glass, metal and wood, with a pane-glass roof.

They were used by the wealthy whose gardeners would cultivate plants for house decoration and landscaping. They were used by plant researchers, academic and amateur, and general plant hobbyists, and they also became used as commercial facilities for growing flowers, herbs, starter plants, etc.

When structures incorporating plastic films became available to the horticultural industry, it still took some time before they became accepted as replacements for the sturdier-appearing glass and metal roofed and sided buildings.

However, most of the commercial greenhouses constructed today are made with plastics.

Perhaps as more and more of traditional building materials become replaced with plastics and composites out of economic need, the term "greenhouse" will be dropped in lieu of more accurate and specific terminologies.

And perhaps then people will drop the "greenhouse" and "hot-house" associations that may tend to shy them away from considering such facilities for production animal agriculture.

Dairy cattle need cool, clean, and flowing fresh air — not
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Standing in front of the old limestone farmhouse at JIMANDOT Holsteins, James Bennetch holds the halter of an 89-point Bova Glow daughter that made 140 pounds last

test, while wife Dot controls the family dog Corky, and from the left, James' mother Martha stands with son Jim and Dot's son Christopher and daughter Jessica.

CMA Conference Provides Insights Into Agriculture's Economic Future

ANDY ANDREWS
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UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Near-ideal nationwide growing conditions throughout the summer last year helped create the third largest corn crop on record, which could do wonders to help improve carryover despite continued heavy corn use by the poul-

try and swine industries, according to a Penn State economist. H. Louis Moore, Penn State economist, spoke to about 60 crop consultants, crop management association (CMA) managers, producers, in addition to college, agency, and business representatives at the Penn State Scanticon Conference Center on Monday.

Moore spoke at the 13th annual meeting of the Pennsylvania CMA (PCMA) and provided insight into the direction of the U.S. and state agricultural economies. Moore was one of several speakers offering information to the nine state CMA chapters and their representatives regarding "Insights Into the Current Ag Economy and New

Technologies," the conference theme.

Moore told those at the PCMA meeting that U.S. corn harvest for 1996, according to latest USDA figures, was 9.27 billion bushels. Wheat harvest stands at 2.28 billion bushels and soybean harvest was 2.4 billion bushels.

For the state, corn growers harvested 129.2 million bushels, not a record year (the record was in 1985 when the state harvested 151.8 million bushels). However, 1996 was a record for the amount of bushels per acre, according to Moore, at 123 — compared to only 110 bushels per acre in 1985.

Overall corn production is down because, as one producer who attended the meeting admitted,

land is being lost to houses, parking lots, and shopping centers. Also, more soybeans are being grown in the state.

Corn use is increasing at pork and chicken finishing facilities. Corn use stands at 165 million bushels a week nationwide. Corn carryovers, according to Moore, stood at 426 million bushels as of Sept. 1, 1996. USDA projects carryover as of Sept. 1 of this year to be 1,107 million bushels, 435 million bushels of wheat, and 210 million bushels of soybeans.

But with the increasing use of corn and with the unpredictability of growing conditions, Moore told those at the meeting, "I think there will be less than a billion bushels

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Horse World Expo Held In Maryland

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Maryland Correspondent
TIMONIUM, Md. — Friday to Sunday, Jan. 10-12, featured the biggest event of its kind ever to come to the Maryland region. Trainers, horsemen, and equine experts came together to share information, offer goods for sale, and to entertain horse enthusiasts of every age and level at the Horse World Expo at the Maryland State Fairgrounds.

The show was the brainchild of organizer Denise Isaac of Baltimore County.

"I literally woke up one morning with the idea for this," she said. But thinking about how to organize, and put it together was an overwhelming task for Isaac. "I'm also a competitive bass

fisher," she said, "so I decided to call on Bob Dobart, who runs the big Fishing Expo at the Fairgrounds each year. I had to work up my nerve to call him," she said, admitting that at the time, she was in awe of Dobart.

Isaac started riding when she was six years old. She said she has ridden English and Western, shown, worked with draft horses, and now owns an Appaloosa and rides mostly for relaxation. Isaac said she talked with Eugenia Snyder, one of the organizers of Ohio's Equine Affaire (a similar show), to get advice. With Dobart's expertise they decided to book the top names in the industry, including John Lyons, Richard Shrake, Kenny Harlow, animal communicator, Anita Cur-

tis, and a unique demonstration of Native American horsemanship given by GaWaNi PonyBoy, a Native American of Cherokee descent.

For years John Lyons has been
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State Farm Organizations Want USDA To Continue Dairy Support Activities

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HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — For many dairy farm families, the reality of the plunge in milk value hit just about Christmas.

The milk check to the farm has been slashed significantly because

the officially calculated value of milk dropped because the sale price of cheese dropped in a market that trades less than 1 percent of the nation's cheese.

The price of milk paid to farmers is set by the federal government which uses a formula that takes into account the market val-

ues of milk and milk component products, such as butter, milk powder and cheese.

The drop in cheese price at the National Cheese Exchange (NCE), which the USDA uses to set minimum milk prices, caused a \$4.05 per hundredweight (cwt.) decline

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