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Dedication To Farming Pays Off At Brookfield Farms



Mehrle and Thelma Ramsburg relax with three of their four grandchildren at Brookfield Farms near Utica, Mary-

land. The children are from left, Whitney Diane Crist, Jacob Roop, and Lauren Roop.

KAREN BUTLER

Maryland Correspondent
UTICA, Md. — You don't have to look very hard to see how dedicated Mehrle H. Ramsburg, Jr. is to agriculture; it's evident in every aspect of his life. It shows in the neat-as-a-pin appearance of his and his wife Thelma's Brookfield Farms. You can tell it by looking at his crop yields; numbers like 5.75 tons to the acre of alfalfa haylage, 18 tons of corn silage per acre, and 90 bushels of barley per acre. And the inspirational way he has kept farming despite a tragic PTO accident that took his right arm speaks volumes about his love of dairying. The numerous awards and honors he has accumulated, including most recently being honored as a Master Farmer, speak for themselves.

Mehrle Ramsburg is the 4th generation of his family to milk cows at Brookfield Farms, a Maryland Century Farm. His great-grandfather purchased the farm in 1882. When they started in January of 1961, Mehrle and Thelma had 44 cows. Over the next two years 10 cows were purchased. The herd has been closed since then. Now they are up to 300

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Dairy Cooperative Reports Good Year

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

HAGERSTOWN, Md. - The general manager of a leading eastern milk producer's cooperative told the 700 members and guests present at the annual meeting Wednesday that the future of the dairy

industry is in cooperation.

George Walgrove, Jr., Maryland and Virginia Cooperative Association, said producer groups, as well as cooperatives, need to participate in this joint effort.

"Each year I am asked if there is hope for the future of the dairy

industry," Walgrove said. "Each year I say yes, because there are responsible people in the industry who care very much about the dairy farmers. These people have committed themselves to our industry to make it prosperous.

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Marketing Forum Presents Pennsylvania Pride Potential

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The official marketing logo of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture is, "Pennsylvania Pride — From our home to yours."

That logo could someday

become the umbrella slogan for in-state-produced agricultural commodities, as part of a dedicated agricultural and commodity marketing program.

Or not.

The PDA Bureau of Market Development held a marketing forum last week in the state Agri-

culture Building in Harrisburg to bring together representatives of various segments of Pennsylvania agricultural producers to hear several speakers discuss current marketing analysis, research on consumer trends, and aspects of successful marketing programs.

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Preconditioned Cattle Benefit The Bottom Line

ANDY ANDREWS

Lancaster Farming Staff
ADAMSTOWN (Lancaster Co.) — No longer is it good enough for cattle buyers to simply "look" at a set of calves and determine their quality, according to one animal expert.

Buyers want backgrounding information — genetic and other data that will show how to improve, as is often the case, a sag-

ging bottom line.

And calf producers who can show the buyer a calf that has been preconditioned — properly weaned and vaccinated against respiratory diseases — has the potential to earn good premiums in the years to come, according to leading Midwest veterinarian.

Dr. Ken Odde, senior veterinarian at Pfizer Animal Health, Pollock, S.D., examined some of the

benefits in terms of better price at auction and of improved herd health performance.

Odde spoke to 40 producers and agri-industry representatives on Tuesday, the first day of a first-time, on-the-road, three-day Eastern Cattlemen's Symposium which began at Weaver's Market in Adamstown.

Odde indicated that there is

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The Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative outstanding young cooperator couples are, in front, Steve and Kelly Wilson, Parkton, Maryland, starting term, and Richard and Naomi Speer, Blairs Mills, Pennsylvania, completing term.