

# Dean Steele On Tour Of Lancaster, Cumberland Counties



On tour with the dean, are from left, Mary Helsey, Jim Shirk, John Schwartz, Bill Weaver, and Bob Barley. Robert

Steele, dean, Mike Brubaker, Pat Heuser, Mel Eckhouse, Paul Walgemuth, and John Weldeman.

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Neighbor relations are always considered when manure spreading and other field operations are in progress. All the dairy, financial, and field records are kept on three computers in the farm office.

Cow comfort is evident in the barn as well. Bedding in the free stalls consists of chopped rubber covered with a sheet of canvas. Curtain sides and a vented roof provide natural air-flow along with fans and a sprinkler system to keep the cows cool in summer.

The cows are fed in four groups according to production and stages of lactation. One group is made up of all the two year-old milking heifers.

After the farm tour, the group ate lunch at the Spring House Restaurant and continued on to other agribusiness locations. Visits were made to Wenger Feeds and John Cope Food Products at Rheems, and the Land O' Lakes plant at Mt. Holly Springs. A reception with key farm leaders, extension directors, legislators, and county commissioners was held at the Embers Inn and Convention Center, Carlisle.

Host for the tour was Jim Shirk, ag director, Lancaster Chamber of Commerce.

## Revolving Certificates Returned Early

RESTON, Va. — Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative Association, Inc. distributed \$1,841,722, or 10 cents per hundredweight to dairy farmers who shipped milk to the coopera-

tive in 1989. Mailed on Tuesday, September 30, the distribution represents certificates held in the cooperative's revolving fund since 1990. For the past seven years, this portion of the revolving

fund has contributed to maintaining the facilities and buildings owned by the cooperative.

Normally mailed on December 1, the certificates were mailed two months early this year, in an effort

to help dairy farmers during this challenging time. This is the second early distribution of funds within a 6-week period. The first was the 70 percent cash portion of the \$4.5 million of the 1996 divisional earnings mailed 10 days earlier than usual, on Friday, August 22.

According to President Jack Hardesty, a dairy farmer from Berryville, Virginia, "Because of the cooperative's excellent financial condition, and because we're focused on helping our members

in any way we can, the board of directors for Maryland and Virginia has made another decision to return cash to the cooperative members earlier than usual."

### Historical High Returns

For the past three years, Maryland and Virginia have returned an average of 72 cents/cwt above market prices to producers in cash. This figure includes 13th checks, patronage dividends in cash, MACMMA and quality premiums.

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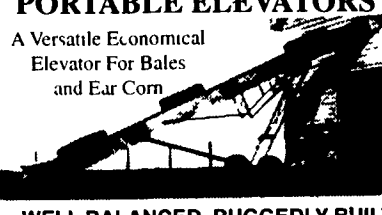
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