

Backman Named Associate Dean For Research

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Paul Backman, director of the Biological Control Institute at Auburn University since 1993, has been named associate dean for research and graduate education and director of the Agricultural Experiment Station in the College of Agricultural Sciences, effective Jan. 15.

"Dr. Backman has extensive administrative experience relating to federal and state policy," said Dean Robert Steele. "He also has an extensive record of generating interdisciplinary grants, particularly from such nontraditional sources as industry. We feel we will be an outstanding asset to our research program and to our administrative team."

As the Biological Control Institute director, Backman was responsible for developing ecologically sound alternatives to pesticides while supervising the activities of 27 faculty members in three colleges and five departments. He also developed funding sources within the university and from outside agencies and indus-

tries, and organized faculty research teams to address specific issues. He administered more than \$2 million in funds for institute projects. He also served as the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station integrated pest management (IPM) coordinator.

His accomplishments include organizing an "IPM Forum" at Auburn University to study and discuss a plan to meet USDA requirements for IPM by the year 2000.

His principal areas of research include "vaccination" or induced systemic resistance of plants to pathogenic microorganisms; biological control of plant pathogens; and biological controls for the kudzu plant, peanut diseases, cotton diseases, and other crop diseases. He has been instrumental in attracting top graduate students to the Biological Control Institute and also has worked extensively with graduate students on his own research projects.

Backman has extensive international experience, serving as a researcher at the European Biologi-

cal Control Laboratory in 1997 and making numerous research trips to Central and South America, Europe and the Pacific Rim. He also served as a consultant for the International Atomic Energy Agency of the United Nations from 1989 to 1991. In addition, he worked as a senior plant pathologist for the United Nations in Uruguay in 1978 and 1979.

He has published more than 100 articles in such journals as the Handbook of Pest Management, Weed Science, Plant Disease and Phytopathology. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Alabama Center for Biotechnology from 1994 to 1995.

Backman joined the Auburn faculty in 1971 as an assistant professor and moved up the academic ranks to full professor by 1983. He has served on numerous professional and university committees throughout his career. He teaches both graduate and undergraduate courses.

He also worked as a research plant pathologist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture at Clem-

son University in 1970 and 1971. He earned his A.A. in biological sciences from Yuba College in Marysville, Calif., in 1964 and went on to receive a B.S. and a doctorate in plant pathology in 1966 and 1970, respectively, from the University of California, Davis.

Among his honors are the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station's Director's Senior and

Junior Award for Research in 1991 and 1981, respectively. He was named a National Defense Education Act (NDEA) Fellow in 1966. He is a member of a number of professional societies such as Sigma Xi, the New York Academy of Sciences, Gamma Sigma Delta, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.



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Dairy Of Distinction Program Again Seeks Nice Looking Farms

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) - Do you take pride in maintaining your dairy farm? Does your dairy farm project an attractive, wholesome image to consumers? If so, the Dairy of Distinction Program of Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey, will consider your farm for the program's annual recognition awards.

The Northeast Dairy Farm Beautification Program that oversees the Distinction program was first started in 1983 in Pennsylv-

nia to recognize the hard work and dedication of the farmers who maintain attractive farms. The purpose of the program is to instill a greater sense of confidence in the wholesomeness of dairy products, and increase their sales.

Farms that apply are judged on the roadside appearance of buildings, grounds, and surroundings, since this is what our dairy product consumers observe as they drive by the farm.

The cleanliness of the barnyard, feed areas, and manure management are all areas taken into consideration when a team of judges takes a look at your farm from a roadside point of view. Judging is conducted during the month of May. Award winners are announced during your local June Dairy Month activities.

To qualify for consideration, you must be actively dairy farming and shipping milk.

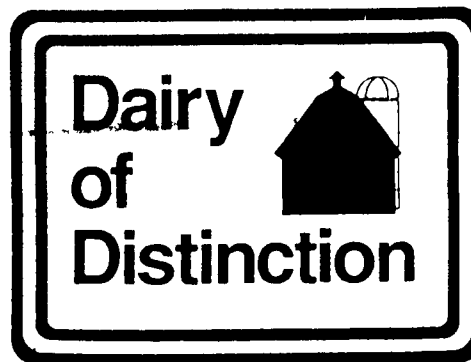
Applications are available for Pennsylvania dairy farms from Michael O'Conner, 324 Henning Building, Dept. of Dairy and Animal Science, Penn State University, University Park, PA 16802. Phone: (814) 863-3913.

For New York State applications are available from Carol Keene, RD 1, Box 31, Gilbertsville, NY 13776. Phone: (607) 783-2169.

For New Jersey applications, send to: August Knispel, 641 Sidney Road, Pittstown, NJ 08867. Phone: (908) 735-4989.

All applications must be completed and returned to your state secretary by Wednesday, April 15, 1998.

The Dairy of Distinction program is financed in Pennsylvania by Dairy Farmers through the American Dairy Association Dairy Council and Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program in cooperation with many local agribusiness organizations. The program is conducted with advice and help from Penn State Cooperative Extension.



HOW IS YOUR FARM SCORED?

Northeast Dairy Farm Beautification Program, Inc

Awards will be based upon neatness, good maintenance and other factors which can be controlled by the farmer. Attractive background scenery should not be weighed heavily in judging. All judging observations should be made from a vehicle at one or more points on an adjacent public highway (or if farm is off the road, the nearest lane). Judging should give equal consideration to old wood construction and new construction of metal or concrete block.

The award program may be used for subsequent advertising or promotion activities for dairy products or dairy farming. Farmers who apply for awards agree that, if selected they will cooperate with these activities and make all reasonable efforts to maintain both the exterior and interior of their properties in an acceptable condition.

HOW THE APPLICATION WORKS

The owner or operator of the dairy farm should sign the application and send it to NEDFBP secretary by April 15.

HOW THE JUDGING WORKS

Judging teams will visit farms during the month of May. Farms will be judged each year as the award is presented on an annual basis. Any dairy failing to maintain appearance standards will be asked to remove their sign. The Dairy of Distinction signs remain the property of the committee, not the property of the dairy farmer. All farms must achieve a compliance score of 90 percent on their Dairy of Distinction score card. Your cooperative or milk handler will be contacted to approve your milk quality.

RULES FOR THE DAIRY OF DISTINCTION AWARD

- 1) The Dairy of Distinction sign remains the property of the Northeast Dairy Farm Beautification Committee.
- 2) The post and bracket shall be supplied by and maintained by the dairy farmer. It is suggested that a wood post 4' x 4' x 12' or iron pipe 2' x 12' be used. Posts or pipe should be installed and maintained in true vertical position with 8' above ground. Top of the bracket should be lower than six inches from the top of the post.
- 3) Sign shall be displayed in front of the dairy at roadside. An attractive post and bracket, or other frame, shall be used to display the sign. No more than three signs should be displayed from the sign frame or post, and all shall be of a style, general size and quality comparable to the Dairy of Distinction sign. Sign should be secured on all sides to avoid wind damage.
- 4) Signs shall not be moved to other premises. New owners of a Dairy of Distinction farm must apply to retain the sign.
- 5) Replacement of damaged signs shall be the discretion of the committee.
- 6) No producer shall be charged with scoring or sign expense.
- 7) Judges' decisions will be final.
- 8) Judging will take place between May 1st and May 31st.
- 9) Farms awarded a Dairy of Distinction sign in previous years will be judged between April 1st and April 30th. If they do not qualify, they will be rejudged between May 1st and May 31st so they have the opportunity to keep the sign.
- 10) Farms that do not requalify will return the sign to their regional Dairy of Distinction Committee.

Dairy of Distinction 1998 Pennsylvania Application

PURPOSE OF PROGRAM

Attractive dairy farms give the consumer greater confidence in the wholesomeness of milk and stimulate milk sales which encourages public support for the dairy industry. The award gives recognition to the dairy farmer for maintaining a well-kept farmstead.

ELIGIBILITY

All Northeast dairy farms producing milk for sale are invited to submit an application for the award. Dairies receiving the 10 highest scores in each of the 21 districts will receive an 18" x 24" Dairy of Distinction sign to be displayed in front of their farm.

APPLICATION

Your Name _____ Farm Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone Number _____

Cooperative or Handler (where you ship your milk) _____

(Your Handler will be contacted to approve your milk quality)

Location (driving directions for judging team) _____

County (where your farm is located) _____

I hereby apply to the Northeast Dairy Farm Beautification Committee to have my dairy scored in accordance with the rules of the program for the purpose of obtaining a Dairy of Distinction sign to be displayed on my premises. (No producer will be charged for scoring or sign expense)

Signature of Owner/Operator _____ Date _____

Return your application by April 15. Send to:

- PENNSYLVANIA, Michael O'Conner, 324 Henning Building, Dept. of Dairy and Animal Science, Penn State University, University Park, PA 16802.
- NEW YORK STATE, Carol Keene, RD 1, Box 31, Gilbertsville, NY 13776.
- NEW JERSEY, August Knispel, 641 Sidney Road, Pittstown, NJ 13077.