

Short Course To Train Dairy Farm Employees

COLUMBUS, Ohio — As dairy farms become larger, dairy owners must hire more people to do more specialized jobs.

If these new employees aren't trained properly, a farm's milk quality and production levels could suffer, said Maurice Eastridge, Ohio State University Extension dairy farm management specialist.

"Someone new to dairy farming may not know how to recognize when cows have mastitis or when and how to treat them," Eastridge said.

"They may not know the importance of sanitizing milk lines to keep milk quality high. Or, they may not realize that treating cows poorly or abruptly changing milking routines could affect production."

To help train recently hired dairy farm employees and people pursuing work on a dairy farm, Ohio State University Extension and the Agricultural Technical Institute will hold its first Dairy Farm Employee Short Course March 24-26 at ATI in Wooster.

"The short course was developed specifically for dairy employees who are in the parlor milking or out in the barn or pasture feeding cows. It's not necessarily a program for the farm owner," Eastridge said. "It's several days of focused training, not just a

one-day, hit-or-miss program."

On Tuesday, March 24, participants will get an introduction to the dairy industry and its importance to world food production. Animal behavior, detecting when a cow is in heat and observing animals for health problems also will be discussed.

Participants can choose to spend Wednesday learning about either milking management or feeding management.

Anatomy and physiology, sanitation, milk quality, milking procedures, mastitis control, abnormal and normal milk, and milking systems will be covered in the milking section.

Feeding management topics will include digestive anatomy and physiology, dry matter intake, Total Mixed Ration (TMR) management, feed types and characteristics, feed storage, nutrition and herd health, and working with a feed salesperson.

Feed is the greatest variable cost of producing milk, Eastridge said. If there is a feeding problem, milk production may respond dramatically and quickly.

For example, higher moisture levels increase feed weight. If the moisture content of forage increases and feed rations are mixed solely by weight and not dry matter content, a cow could receive the same pounds of feed, but not

the same amount of fiber and dry matter. A lack of dry matter and fiber can lower milk production and cause digestive problems, Eastridge said.

"The programs will be very hands-on, with training at both ATI's dairy center and the Krauss Dairy Center at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center," Eastridge said. "We'll do some practice milking and feed mixing."

On Thursday, farm safety and getting along with employers and other employees will be discussed.

"We're trying to make the short course more than just feeding and milking training by including other issues that are important to dairy farm employees," Eastridge said.

In addition to many Ohio State instructors, several dairy industry representatives will speak during the short course.

"We like to team up with industry people and draw upon their expertise when conducting these kinds of programs," Eastridge said.

People who complete the three-day short course will receive a certificate verifying their completion of the program. The certificate may be helpful to people seeking employment on a dairy, he said. If the first-time program is success-

ful, it will be offered on an annual basis.

The registration deadline for the Dairy Farm Employee Short Course is Feb. 27.

The \$225 fee includes two lunches, refreshment breaks and course materials. Participants will need to make their own lodging reservations.

The course is limited to 50 people — 25 each for Wednesday's milking and feeding management

sessions — and is offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

For registration or more information about the short course, interested people can contact Tom Noyes, Extension dairy agent at the Wayne County Extension office, (330) 264-8722; Kim Sayers, program director of ATI Continuing Education, (330) 264-3911, ext. 1326; or their local office of Ohio State University Extension.

Appraiser Takes Course

HATFIELD (Montgomery Co.) — Harold A. Alderfer of the Sanford Aldefer Auction Company is one of 27 appraisers who have successfully completed part one of the Auction Marketing Institute's (AMI) new Graduate Personal Property Appraiser designation course, bringing the total number who has completed the course to 257.

Held in Harrisburg, appraisers from eight states attended the two-day seminar.

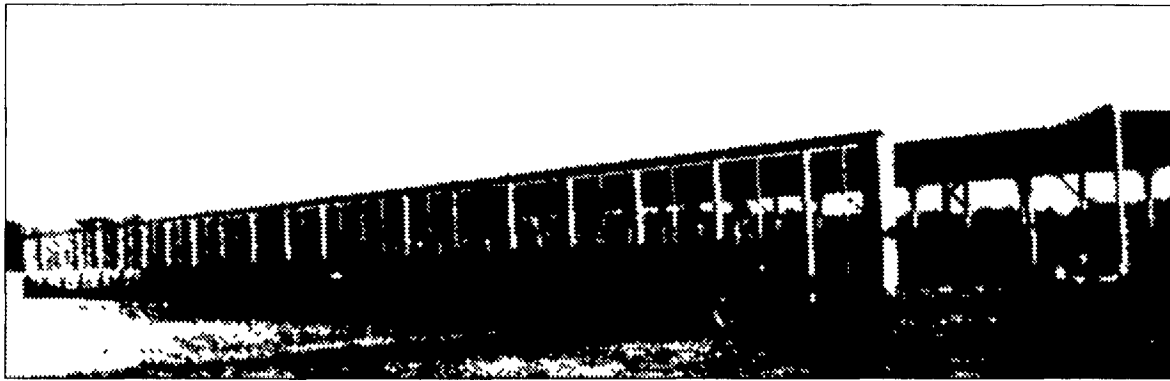
The designation, Graduate Personal Property Appraiser (GPPA), is a two-part course, part one focused on methodology, identification, USPAP, report writing responsibilities of the appraiser to the client, legal

aspects, factors affecting value, and definitions. Part two is product-specific and will consist of three distinct specialty areas.

The program, designed to standardize appraisals, is based on a study of industry needs and the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP) guidelines developed by the appraisal industry AMI is taking the lead in providing these much needed services for the industry. Earning and maintaining the GPPA designation will require experience, successful completion of two courses, demonstrated appraisal writing skills, an adherence to a strict code of professional ethics, following USPAP guidelines and membership in AMI.

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