

(Continued from Page A10)

Agriculture Research Service in Beltsville, Md., leaves Smith Middle School, 8:15 a.m., returns at 4 p.m.

Thursday, March 19

Weed School, Berks County Ag Center, Leesport, also March 20 at the Chester County Government Building, West Chester.

Sheep Management Series, York County 4-H Center, Bair, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Horse Pasture Workshop, Bloomsburg, 6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Northwest Pennsylvania Ag Dairy Day, Henderson Campus Center, 8:30 a.m.-2:15 p.m.

Lancaster County Conservation District Annual Dinner Meeting, Country Table, Mount Joy, 6:30 p.m.

Crawford County Ag/Dairy Day, Allegheny College, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

An Evening With Dr. Michael Hutchins, University of Illinois Dairy Nutritionist, Mercer Howard Johnson's, 7 p.m.-10 p.m.

Southeast Pennsylvania Grazing School, Lebanon extension office, 7:30 p.m.-9 p.m.

National Holstein Association meeting, Lebanon Ag Center, 7:30 p.m.

Pesticide Recertification Meeting, UGI Auditorium, Bethlehem, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Reproduction Meeting, Clinton County Cooperative Extension, Mill Hall, 11 a.m.

Large Animal Veterinarians Dairy Nutrition Consultants Evening With Dr. Mike Hutjens, dairy nutritionist at the U. of Ill., at Howard Johnson's Restaurant, Mercer, 7 p.m.

Friday, March 20
National Agriculture Day
Spring Begins

Weed School, Chester County Government Building, West Chester.

Lebanon County Agriculture Futures Forum, Elco Middle School, 7 p.m.

York County 4-H Auction, 4-H Center, 5 p.m.

Capitol Area Beekeepers Association, Pa. Department of Ag Building, Harrisburg, 7:30 p.m.

S.W. Pa. Regional Dairy Day, Mountain View Inn, Greensburg, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Saturday, March 21

Equine Expo, Diamond 7 Arena, Dillsburg, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Penn State Garden Symposium, Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, 8:45 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

Spring Junior Dairy Judging Contest, Penn State.

Sunday, March 22**Monday, March 23**

Pesticide Update Meeting, Fruit Research Lab, Biglerville, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Beef Nutrition School, Ed's Steak House, Bedford, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., also March 24.

Small Fruit Growers Meeting, Days Inn, Butler, 9 a.m.-3:10 p.m.

Tuesday, March 24

Livestock Housing Workshop, Mercer County Extension Office, 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Pesticide Review Exam, Venango County Extension Office, 7 p.m.-9 p.m., exam March 25, Venango County Extension, 7 p.m.

Dairy Ag Engineering Conference, Mercer County extension office, 9:30 a.m.-2:20 p.m.

Beef Management Short Course, York County 4-H Center, Bair, 7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m., also March 31 and April 7, 14, 21, and 28 and May 2 and 13.

National Farmers Union Annual Meeting

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The independent farmer's ability to make management decisions on the commodities they produce is disappearing as markets have become more concentrated, according to an internationally syndicated investigative reporter.

Alan Guebert of Delavan, Ill., told participants in the National Farmers Union's 96th Anniversary Convention that the nation's feedlots, packers, chemical companies, seed companies and railroads have merged and bought each other in recent years, denying market access to farmers and reducing their profits.

In the six largest cattle feeding states, for example, a third of the cattle are produced under formal contracts. In 1997, the ratio was one-in-five. While vertically integrated pork packers offer attractive premiums to their contract producers during low-price cycles, producers' receipts remain fixed when prices are higher. "When you flatten your risk, you flatten your profitability," Guebert said.

In grain and oilseeds, Guebert said, Archer Daniels Midland has emerged from a barely profitable company in the 1970s to one of the largest global market corporations today. ADM currently owns 2,200 barges and 15,000 rail cars. It is the world's largest cocoa processor and has purchased a portion of United Feed Growers of Canada, Moorman's Feeds, 10 percent of Iowa Beef Processors and 30 percent of Minnesota Corn Processors. Elsewhere, DuPont has spent \$3 billion to purchase part of Pioneer Seeds; Continental Grain has purchased a portion of Premium Standard Farms (PSF); and Smithfield is establishing pork-slaughtering plants in Mexico.

In transportation, Canadian National, Canada's largest east-west railroad, recently purchased purchased Illinois Central, the largest north-south railroad into the U.S. and owners of the fourth-largest railroad in Mexico. Guebert said all of these mergers and acquisitions tie together as these transna-

tional corporations are positioning themselves to move commodities from country to country, taking advantage of differences in currency exchange rates, labor and environmental standards and other factors.

Guebert said biotechnology primarily benefited farmers in its first three or four years, through products such as insect and herbicide-resistant seeds. Now, these products are produced for the benefit of end-users, which will force farmers into planting what the end-users want. In livestock, technology has enabled the production of calves from a single cell. This patented technology will mean that producers who produce

calves from these animals must pay a fee, because the calves belong to the genetics company.

A new federal farm policy and global trade are fostering an environment in which the business decision-making is taken away from farmers. Guebert said \$1.2 billion was spent last year on lobbying, while over the last 10 years, farm policy has been passed that builds market concentration and denies market access.

"There's one word to describe America: freedom. When laws are broken or distorted, we lose our freedom and our souls. That's what's happening in this country," he said.

New Jersey Reserve Division Champion

DENVER, Colo. — Dunwalke Farm of Far Hills, N.J., exhibited the reserve champion division IV female at the National Gelbvieh Show during the National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colo.

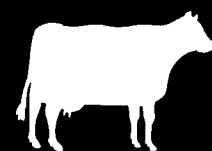
The entry, DWK Parti Hostess F110 ET, is a May 1996 daughter of KCF Bennett Target A10 out of PRTY Parti Girl. PRTY Parti Girl is a two-time national champion in her own right.

The Gelbvieh breed experienced a positive week of activities during the National Western Stock Show. Entries in the National Show were up to 25 percent, while the Gelbvieh Pen Bull Show saw record entries.

The National Sale saw great excitement and the highest sale average of all breeds during the National Western. The Gelbvieh National Sale saw an average of \$6,765 on 33.83 lots.

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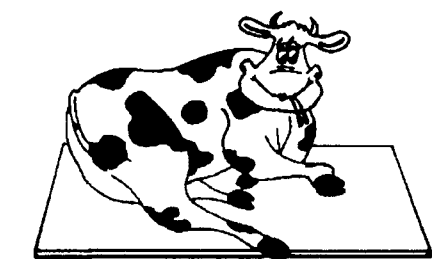
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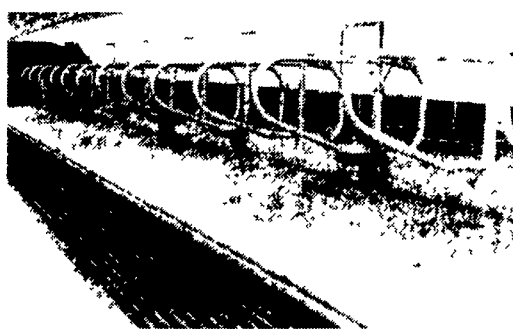
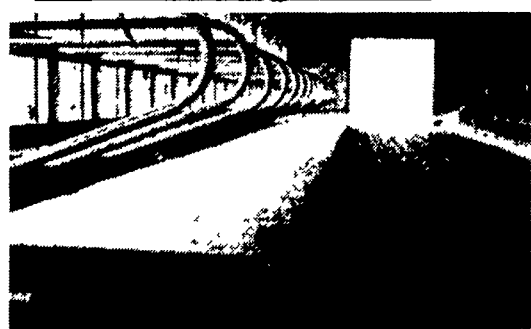
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