

Maryland Holstein Convention Held

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The ladies program included a visit to the Maryland home and Garden Show, held at the exhibition hall at the fairgrounds. After touring the show the ladies had how-to-seminars and lunched at the exhibition hall.

The juniors held their meeting on the light rail train on their way to Camden Yards. In the afternoon they toured the Baltimore Aquarium, and returned on the train.

(See Award Winner Placings Next Week)



Progressive genetics herd award winners, from left, Cam Davis, Unicorn Associates; Donna Myers, Windsor Manor; Harold Smith, My Lady's Manor; Marlin Hoff, Coldsprings; and Mike Allen, Glen-Toctin.

Progressive breeders registry award winners, from left, Mike Allen, Glen-Toctin; Shannon Harrison, Dun-Loafin; Cindee Savage, Savage-Leigh; Oren Bender, Cove-Run; and John Morris, presenting awards.

Dairy Co-ops Want Compact Legislation

EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) — "The old status quo of dairy farming is out the door," says Gordon Hoover, Lancaster County dairy producer. "Dairy compacts are another tool that farmers can use in these changing times for pricing their milk."

Hoover, a director of Land O'Lakes, was one of several dairy cooperative leaders and staff representatives who met last Friday with Senator Noah Wenger, acting chairman of the state Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, to discuss the issue of dairy compacts. Joining forces in the drive for compact legislation to be addressed in Pennsylvania are DairyLea, Dairy Farmers of America, Land O'Lakes and Maryland and Virginia Milk Producers.

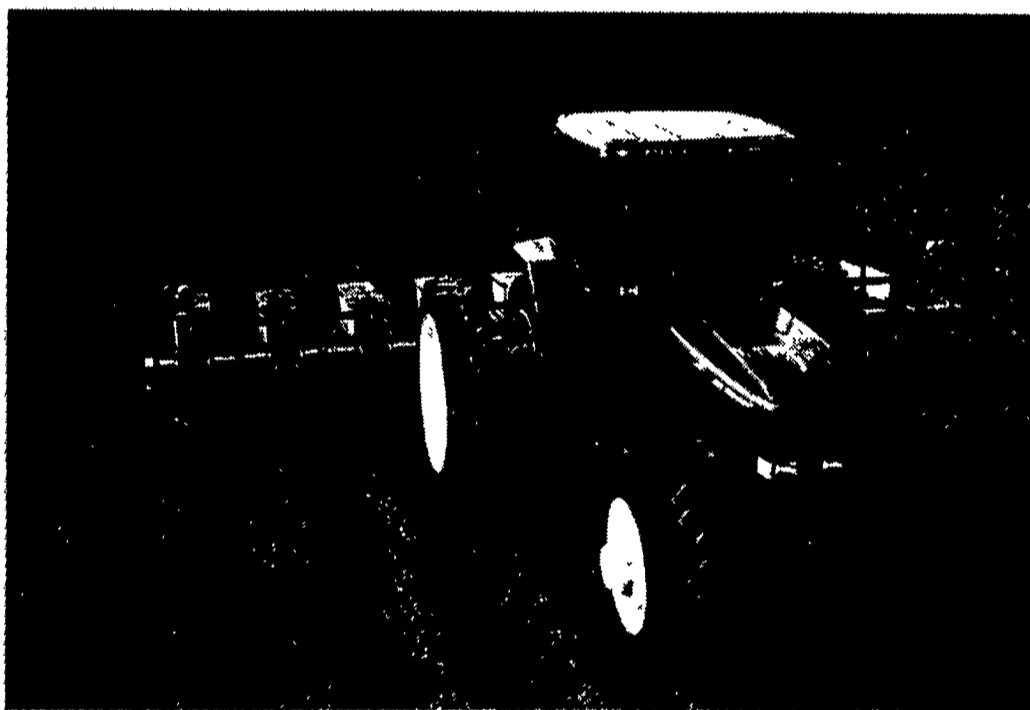
On March 10, Senator Wenger's office announced an informational hearing on dairy compacts to be held April 3 in Williamsport for industry and public input on the legislative issue. The hearing is scheduled to run from 9 a.m. through 4 p.m. at the Professional Development Center of the Pennsylvania College of Technology, with time allowed in the agenda for producer comments.

Dairy cooperatives are taking a lead role in pushing for compact legislation to be addressed in Pennsylvania. Though Senate Bill 170 went to the Senate Ag Committee in January 1997, a House Bill, HB 2302, was introduced and referred to the House Ag Committee on March 11, co-sponsored by 40 of the state's legislators.

Push for the compact legislation comes on the heels of higher Class I milk prices being paid to dairy producers involved in the New England Dairy Compact. That compact, birthed under the auspices of the 1996 Farm Bill and upheld through court challenges since taking effect last summer, has established a \$16.94 hundred-weight price on all Class I milk sold in the compact area. As the federal order Class I price fluctuates with seasonal formula price swings, the Compact collects the additional monies above the federal order level and returns it to dairy producers within the pricing area.

Under the statutes of the compact structure, states contiguous to a compact state can join in the umbrella of regional compact pricing. However, to do so, a joining state must have identical dairy compact legislation passed in its state governing body. New Jersey has passed compact legislation. It has passed in New York's Senate and is under debate on the Assembly side. Dairy cooperative leaders eye having Pennsylvania legislation passed and in place if New York's is successful.

With the compact's current pricing structure set to run only to April 1999, when Federal Order



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