

MIDDLETOWN (Dauphin Co.) — The Crop Storage Institute from Lafayette, Indiana, held a forage and storage seminar for the agricultural media, bankers, county agents, and a few farmers. The benefits of upright silos were presented from research conducted at two separate universities.

Experts spoke about the long-range advantages of having the more expensive upright systems, which can go a long way to make up their initial investment costs by providing less dry matter (DM) losses, better feed, improved inventory control, and ultimately better milk, and beef production.

Mary Kay Siefers, graduate research assistant with Kansas State University Department of Animal Science, and Brian J. Holmes, extension ag engineer with the College of Ag and Life Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Madison, spoke recently at the Double Tree Club Hotel.

For corn silage, an upright or tower silo can return as much as 90 percent DM content, with 10 percent or less spoilage. Under best

management strategies, according to the graduate research assistant, for upright silos the average is about 4 percent DM loss at "maximum," she said.

Siefers indicated that the key to any feed storage system is to provide "forage in — silage out, quality and quantity," she said. The presentation, she said, is from a "silage maker's perspective — getting the best quality feed to the animal."

For "perfect silage," it's also important to use an additive, she noted. She recommends an inoculant. An inoculant used on corn silage provides a \$3-\$4 return for every \$1 invested, she noted, in dry matter recovery and quality. Using an inoculant for haylage provides an even better return — \$6-\$8 for every \$1 invested.

Put an inoculant in every structure, Siefers told the producers.

Brian J. Holmes, extension ag engineer from the University of Wisconsin, compared various costs between different storage systems, including new glass-line steel towers, rebuilt steel towers,

cast-in-place towers, concrete stave towers, above-ground bunkers, packaged silage piles, plastic baggers, and wrapped bales.

When deciding on a storage system, Holmes believes producers use the capital investment as a deciding factor. He said, "My concern is that the capital cost is not necessarily the cost the producer pays."

Importantly, the long-term benefits of having an upright can provide improved economic benefits in keeping the silage or forage clean and dry, away from elements that will reduce DM content of the stored feed.

Dry matter losses, in his research, were low — 6 percent for either the steel/glass towers or the cast-in-place towers. Drew Freeman, president of the Crop Storage Institute noted that new manufacturing technology can produce some large upright storage systems. Tower silos can be built to 40 feet by 120 feet at a capacity of 5,087 tons.

There is also a misconception that when loading silos, you can't

go fast with uprights, according to Freeman. But he showed examples of a Wisconsin producer using trucks to dump the material in windrows, which are then scooped up and blown inside. This "dump and go" filling worked to load the silos

quickly.

Freeman said there are 20 members of the Institute nationwide and in Canada. This is the second such forum conducted, the first time in this part of the country. There is a large base of silo companies in Pennsylvania and New York, he noted.



Mary Kay Siefers, graduate research assistant with Kansas State University Department of Animal Science, at left, and Brian J. Holmes, extension ag engineer with the College of Ag and Life Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Madison, right presented their findings recently. In center is Drew Freeman, president of the Crop Storage Institute in Lafayette, Ind.

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 Pennsylvania

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.

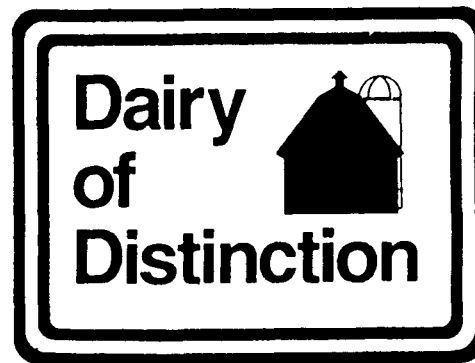
Applications are available for Pennsylvania dairy farms from Michael O'Conner, 324 Henning Building, Dept. of Dairy and Animal Science, Penn State University, University Park, PA 16802. Phone: (814) 863-3913.

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.