

## Cattlemen's Field Day Looks At Pasture, Land, Breeding

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Techniques in forage and pasture management will be the theme at the 23rd Annual Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Summer Field Day, Saturday, July 18, at the McElhaney Stock Farm and the Hookstown Fairgrounds in Hookstown.

The event also will be an opportunity for Pennsylvania cattlemen to demonstrate environmentally friendly processes now in use by livestock producers, according to Dr. Lowell Wilson, Penn State professor of animal science and secretary of the Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association.

"Our theme and demonstration projects were selected to show that beef producers and others are looking to conserve and replenish our natural resources at the same time they are using them," Wilson said. "It's all part of being better caretakers of our land and water. This event will be of interest to beef, dairy and sheep producers; but it's also a good opportunity for non-farm people to learn more about sustainable methods of livestock production."

New practices and technologies used for water control, estrus

synchronization and grazing management systems are among the special topics planned. Other demonstrations will include ova transplant procedures, pasture species selection, fencing programs and hoof trimming.

Liability issues connected with the use of electrically charged fencing and other farming practices will be the focus at a special luncheon sponsored by Mid-Atlantic Genetic Productions. Dr. Terry Etherton, head of Penn State's Department of Dairy and Animal Science, also will discuss challenges and opportunities confronting the animal industries. The Pennsylvania State Shorthorn Show will be held on Sunday morning at the Hookstown Fairgrounds.

Other field day activities include a tour of the Duquesne Light Nuclear Power Plant of the Beaver Valley Power Station, followed by the All-Breed Beaver County Junior Show. Afternoon and evening activities include a Keystone steak dinner and music and dancing at the farm. The event will close with fitting and showing demonstrations on Sunday, July 19.

Exhibits and presentations will

be staffed by representatives of Penn State Cooperative Extension and faculty members of the Department of Dairy and Animal Science in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences, as well as by staff from the Beaver County Natural Resource Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The event is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association (PCA), the Pennsylvania Shorthorn Association and the Washington County Cattlemen's Association, in cooperation with Penn State Cooperative Extension and the university's Department of Dairy and Animal Science.

Registration will be from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the McElhaney Stock Farm. Admission is free to anyone interested in animal agriculture. More information can be obtained by calling PCA at (814) 692-4208, McElhaney's Stock Farm at (724) 573-9043, the Penn State Department of Dairy and Animal Science at (814) 863-3659, or Penn State Cooperative Extension in Beaver County at (724) 774-3003.

## Bureau Praises Coalition

ALBANY, N.Y. — New York Farm Bureau President John Lincoln, a dairy farmer from Ontario County, recently praised several groups who joined Farm Bureau to call for passage of the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact.

Lincoln called the group, which included consumer organizations Hunger Action Network and Just Food, environmental organizations Scenic Hudson and civic group the City Club of New York, "a diverse coalition of organizations which encompass a wide variety of interests yet all support passage of the Dairy Compact legislation."

President Lincoln said, "The organizations that have come together today is a clear example of how important the dairy industry is to this state's consumers, environmentalists, economists and local business owners. United together in support of passage of this Compact, these organizations are sending a clear message to the Assembly to pass the Compact legislation."

The press conference also

provided an opportunity for the largest agricultural lending organization in the Northeast, Farm Credit, to provide results of a recent study on the future of the dairy industry in the Northeast.

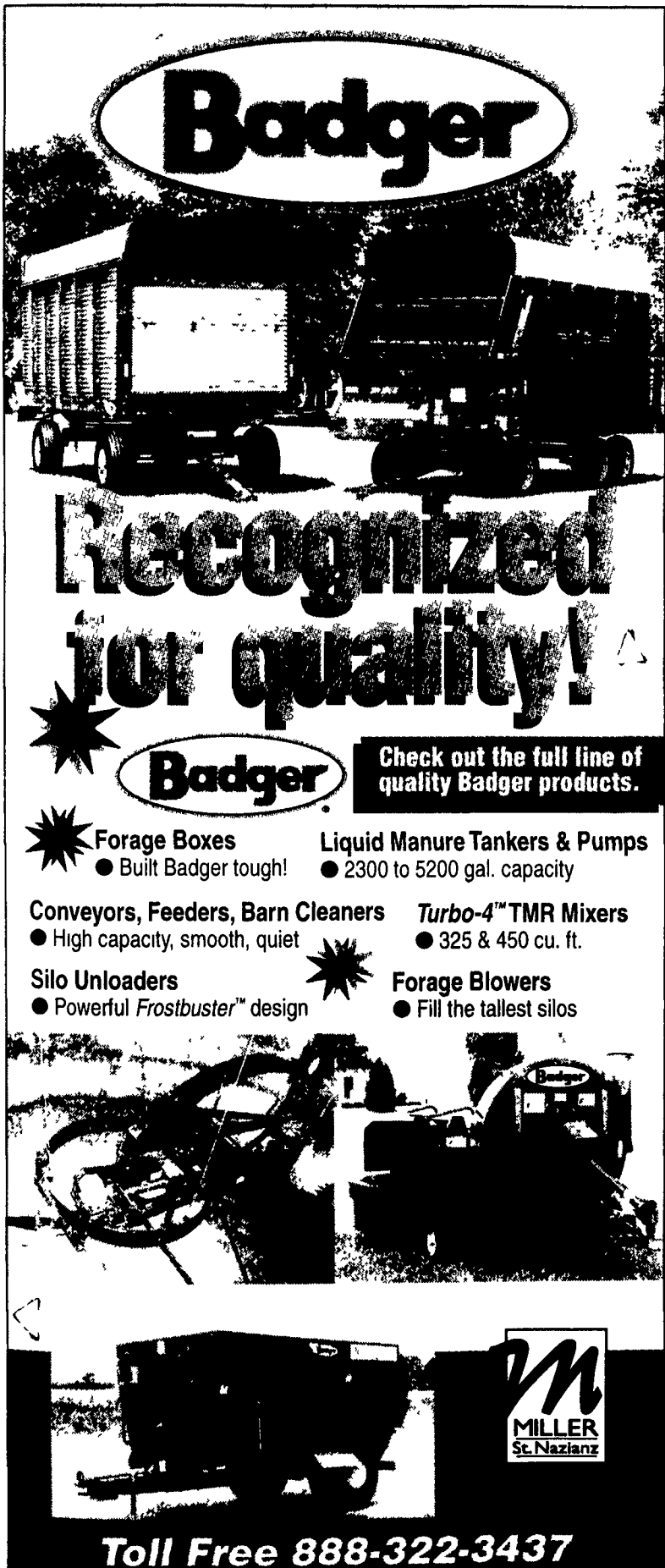
"From examining the report compiled by Farm Credit, it is quite clear that the future of dairy farming is, at best, uncertain, if not declining. The Dairy Compact is a mechanism that could help improve that picture," Lincoln said "It is vital that the Assembly pass the Compact legislation before our Assembly members conclude their business in Albany."

President Lincoln said, "Passage of the Dairy Compact legislation helps dairy farmers, the environment, and consumers. It provides a stable, equitable payment to dairy farmers for their fluid milk. By helping these dairy farmers stay in business, the environment stays healthy, open spaces and New York's grand vistas remain intact, and consumers continue to receive a fresh, locally produced product."

## Milk quality standards remain high

The dairy industry is proud that it can guarantee customers they are buying the freshest quality products every day. Milk and milk products must pass up to 10 tests before a product can be sold to consumers. Federal and state regulations constantly monitor the quality of milk at every step, from the cow to the table.

Milk quality starts on the farm. Dairy producers work closely with veterinarians to ensure herd health and medication guidelines are followed, often using a producer-developed, voluntary 10-part Quality Assurance Program. Milk haulers collect samples from each day's shipment for on-site testing which evaluates butterfat and bacteria levels. Samples are also saved for further testing at the processing plant before the milk is loaded onto trucks heading toward retail or foodservice outlets.



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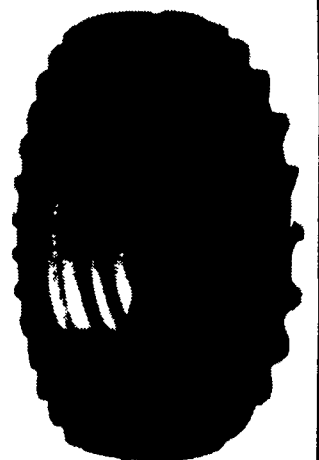
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