

Youth Participate In Dairy Cattle Judging Schools

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Lancaster Farming Staff
RICHLAND (Lebanon Co.) — A total of 95 Pennsylvania youth participated this year in dairy cattle judging schools sponsored by the Pennsylvania Holstein Association.

For a number of years, the PHA has organized and offered judging schools for state youth, with the program designed to offer one school in the western half of the state, and one school in the eastern half of the state.

While the PHA is a dedicated registered Holstein organization, the judging schools are open to all youth involved with any dairy cattle breed, and, through farmer cooperation, school participants get to see and judge classes of top quality animals from almost every breed, depending on local herd availability.

This eastern school was held in Lebanon County this year, noted for its top quality herds of several dairy cattle breed — especially Ayrshire, Brown Swiss and Holsteins. There are some good Jerseys and Guernseys also, though perhaps not as many as in some other counties or regions.

Last week 35 youth representing a "good age distribution," according to PHA Executive Director Kenneth Raney, participated in the eastern school. Matthew Wanner, a Lancaster County dairy judge who farms in partnership with his father and brother, served as school official (judge).

The schools are designed to start at noon the first day and end at noon the second day.

At the Lebanon school, the participants visited Ayrshires at Maulfair Acres, owned by Dale and Pattie Maulfair; Brown Swiss at Gary and Pattie Mase's farm; and Holsteins at Gary and Barbara Lentz's Dream-On Holsteins farm, Adam and Lisa Sonnen's Sonnen Acres herd, and Kirby and Cheryl Horst's farm, Scott and Karen Nolt. Andy Ebersole brought Guernseys at Dream-On Holsteins.

At the western school, classes were provided by Craig and Susan Wicker, Jerseys; Tom and Lori Hartle, Holsteins; Paul and Dee Courter, Holsteins; and Dean and Brenda Daubert, Brown Swiss.

The school official there was David Trotter.

It has been evident for years that the schools are invaluable for the

experience and training of judging basics, and according to Raney, Pennsylvania dairy cattle breeders ensure the high quality education.

"With the cooperation of all the farms involved, with all the extra work, everybody had good classes (to judge), were able to put together top animals and provide an opportunity to see good animals, and that's what makes the school a success," Raney said.

The Pennsylvania Purebred Dairy Cattle Association, which also operates out of the PHA headquarters in State College, also offers a school for those desiring to become listed as an approved

judge of dairy shows.

The school for them is a little more demanding as classes are larger — six to nine per class — than the four-animal classes used for the youth schools.

According to Raney, Centre and Clinton counties hosted this year's PDCA judging school, with 31 people from all over the state participating.

For more information about either school, both of which are held about the same time each year, call the Pennsylvania Holstein Association at (814) 234-0364.



Participants of the eastern PHA youth dairy judging school gather in a half circle around school official Mat Wanner as they review his placing of animals and compare them to the youth's selections.

Holstein Picnic Reminder

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — The Pennsylvania Holstein Association state picnic is to be held Sunday, July 26 at the Keith and Debbie Decker farm in Knox.

Any Holstein enthusiast who attends the picnic and joins the association for the first time will receive 50-percent off their membership fee.

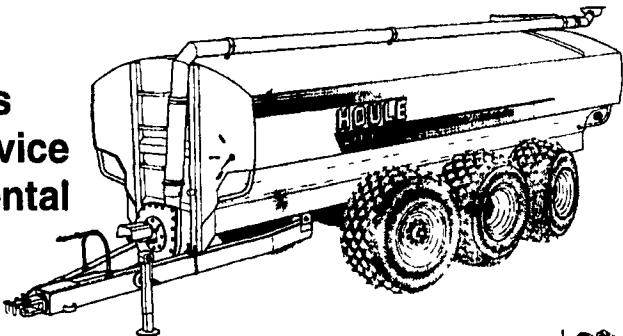
The offer is only good for first time members who sign up at the picnic.

Lunch will be prepared by the Pennsylvania Beef Council.

If they haven't been made, call immediately for reservations. Call the PHA at (814) 234-0364.

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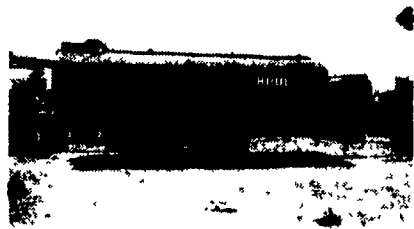
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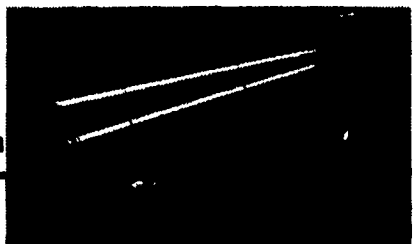
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