

National Agriculture Bankers Visit Pennsylvania



Bankers meet in Rohrer's milking parlor.

(Continued from Page A1)

national meeting of the committee was held in Southeast Pennsylvania this year.

On Saturday, an extensive tour of Lancaster County helped show the visitors from many states how agriculture works in the local area. Farm visits were made to Dwight and Cheryl Hess, Mt. Joy, and the Robert Rohrer and Sons family at Washington Boro. Lunch was served at an Amish farm home near Churchtown.

Field trip sponsors included Wenger Feeds, Kreider Dairy Farms, Chen Mushroom Farms, Hooper, Inc., James Garber and Sons, New Holland North America, Inc., Pennfield Corporation, and First Union/Corestates.

Visitors on the bus tour Saturday included Jim and Jill Atchinson and son Christopher, Wisconsin; Terry Barta and children Jerry and Jade, Kansas; George Beattie, Nebraska; John Blanchfield and Pattie Boerger, both from Washington, D.C.; Gary and Hannah Canada and married children, Gary and Angie Canada, and Joe and Nikki Steward, Arkansas; Dennis and Jan Everson and children Kim, Shanda, and Angela, South Dakota; Jesse and Kay Foster, Oregon; Van and Jan Korell,

Nebraska; Marc Meyer, Iowa; Scott and Rosemary Shafer, New Mexico; David and Lisa Tribble and children Derek, and Lynette, Missouri, and Mike and Jane Walker, California.

Boyd and his wife Linda and children Brian, Cindy, and Kevin hosted the tour.

Special guests included Don Billet, tour guide; Christian Herr, deputy secretary, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture; John Schwartz, Lancaster County extension director; James Shirk, ag services manager, Lancaster Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Ed Klimuska, writer of pictorial book on Lancaster County; Keith Baum, photographer for the book; Bill Hughes and Ted Bowers, associates at the agri-finance department at First Union/CoreStates; and Carlton Moe, Lancaster photographer.

"We wanted this to be a family affair," Boyd said. "Usually these events do not include the children, but our sponsors made it possible to include the children. We wanted to show the bankers from other areas of the country what we have in Lancaster County. These bankers have been a pleasure to work with while I have served on the national bankers ag committee."

Milk Price Makes Record

(Continued from Page A1)

already trading at price levels near this record.

Both butter and cheese markets

remain unsettled. According to the report prepared by the National Milk Producers Federation, neither buyers or sellers are comfortable with the recent price volatility that

that has appeared in these markets. Historic market indicators are providing no clear signs concerning future price movements or direction in the butter and cheese cash markets.

For the first time in seven weeks, butter prices at the cash market remained unchanged. The current price level for AA butter is \$9.850 per pound. With these historic price levels, imports of butterfat are finding their way into the domestic market above quota levels. According to the dairy update report distributed this week by the Coffee, Sugar & Cocoa Exchange, unconfirmed reports suggest that New Zealand is one country that is preparing to ship butterfat into the domestic market.

Butter production continues to decline. For May, production was 92.2 million pounds, 10.2% below May 1997 and 10.4% below April of this year. Through May of 1998, butter production is about 9.0% below 1997 levels.

With these additional declines in butter production, marketing conditions are likely to remain tight. Increased imports are going to provide some relief, but the magnitude of the price impact is uncertain.

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