

Commercial Dairy Meetings Set

MT. JOY (Lancaster Co.) — Supplemental lighting for cows, palpation rails, feed bunk management, Spanish speaking labor, water troughs in tie stall barns, greenhouse barns, 3x/day milking, heat stress management, and POSILAC® 1 STEP™. What in the world are we talking about? Discover how these new management practices are creating additional possibilities for dairy producers to increase milk production!

Monsanto Dairy Business will be sponsoring the six barn meetings held between August 3-12. Please review the host farm list below to decide which meeting you would like to attend. The meetings will be held between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Lunch will be provided!

Tie Stall Meetings

Date: Tuesday, August 4

Location: Marvin R. Stoltzfus Farm (Mar M Farm), 392 E. Eby Rd., Leola.

Two years ago when we visited Mar M Farm, the cows were averaging 80 pounds per day. Today, they average 100+ pounds per day. Witness their success through discussions on nutrition, 3x/day milking, water availability, and cow comfort.

Date: Wednesday, August 5

Location: Vern Umble's Farm, 1135 Bartville Rd., Christiana.

The Umbles' herd is averaging 90 pounds per day on a 3x/day milking schedule. Come see the greenhouse barn for dry cows and heifers in addition to their new water troughs and excellent cow comfort. This meeting is scheduled from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Date: Thursday, August 6

Location: Lavern Martin, 545 Schaeffer Rd., Lebanon.

Lavern is milking 3x/day in his 1½-year-old tie stall barn. We will focus on how supplemental lighting, a pre-cooler and water troughs can take production and profits to the next level. This meeting will be held from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Date: Tuesday, August 11

Location: David K. Stoltzfus, 1148 Goshen Mill Rd., Peach Bottom.

David's new tie stall barn provides outstanding cow comfort. Topics for discussion will include feed bunk management, barn design to promote natural ventilation, water troughs, and heat stress management.

Date: Wednesday, August 12

Location: Ben Lapp, 170 Pleasant View Rd., Honey Brook

Ben has done a tremendous job of improving cow comfort and ventilation in his existing barn. What's next? Water troughs, water bowls, pre-coolers, nutrition, and feed bunk management are a few topics that we will discuss.

Date: Thursday, August 13

Location: Jay Martin, 2417 Bossler Rd., Elizabethtown.

Jay has installed a pre-cooler in his tunnel ventilated barn and we

will be able to see it in action!

Dan Gard, Monsanto area marketing manager, requests that free stall dairy producers interested in seeing new management practices to please be patient. We are planning a "Create the Future" expansion meeting later this year or early 1999. We will focus on many aspects for pre and post expansion. Also, we will try to visit a farm that employs new practices such as management rails, water troughs, positive cow flow, and labor management.

Please make reservations by calling: 1-800-300-6209 by July 30 so that we can have plenty of food available! We are looking forward to seeing you!

Futures Market Seminar

ALLENTOWN (Lehigh Co.)—Many grain farmers are asking questions about their marketing opportunities for the 1998 harvest. Unfortunately, some of the best pricing points might have occurred last fall. The chance to secure favorable price protection appears limited for those growers that have not already locked in prices. The opposite side of the coin is represented by the livestock farmers that locked in feed prices last fall, only to see better pricing opportunities as the year progressed.

Both cases illustrate the need to constantly stay informed about relationships in the market.

Current market factors include the collapse of Asian currency, the largest bean crop in history, wheat cheap enough to feed livestock, the soaring U.S. stock market, European Economic Union, reduced and eliminated government programs, low interest rates and moderate energy costs. Nationally, 22% more corn, 63% more wheat and 15% more beans are stored on farm than during 1997. As Texas starts to harvest a drought stricken corn crop, regional farmers are seeking advice for their operations.

To address these concerns, the Lehigh Valley Grain Marketing Club, Keystone Farm Credit and Lehigh County Cooperative Extension are sponsoring a free Agricultural Marketing Seminar. Mark Gold is the featured speaker. Mark Gold, an internationally recognized authority on agricultural markets will be giving a seminar on August 7th, 7:00 p.m. at the Penn State University, Lehigh Valley Campus.

Mr. Gold is a veteran trader, floor broker and adviser working for Futures Express, Platteville, Wisconsin. His market commentaries appear regularly on DTN.

Mr. Gold's talk will cover:

- 1) What is the CBOT? What are the misunderstandings about its function?
 - 2) Six-step program to set a minimum price.
 - 3) Options and why they work for you.
 - 4) Finding peak opportunities.
- Contact Keystone Farm Credit (610) 395-6831 or Lehigh County Cooperative Extension (610) 391-9840 by August 3rd, to reserve your seat for the discussion of this timely topic.

Information Meeting Set To Form Tobacco Cooperative

PARADISE (Lancaster Co.)—Another meeting to discuss the possibility of forming a tobacco marketing cooperative in Lancaster County is set for Tuesday evening at the Paradise Tobacco Barn. Starting time is 8 p.m. Jane Balmer, president of the Lancaster County Farm Bureau, said the informational meeting is set to inform growers how it is done in other states.

Because much of the 1997 crop is still unsold and there is concern for the 1998 crop, growers are in need of some way to cooperatively find a market for their crop. Two meetings were held earlier this year with more than 400 farmers attending.

Luzerne County Farm Day Set

WEST PITSTON (Luzerne Co.)—The first annual Luzerne County Farm-City Day is scheduled Saturday, Aug. 1 at the Ray Hillman Building, Luzerne County Fairgrounds, Dallas. Beginning at 10 a.m. and concluding at 4 p.m., there will be something for everyone.

A number of scheduled workshops will be taking as follows: 10 a.m. — Preserving Food Safely; 10:45 a.m. — Preparing Your Roses for Winter; 11:30 a.m.; Maintaining Your Trees Properly; 12:15 p.m. — Horse Shoeing Demonstration; 1 p.m. — Fall Bulb Planting; 1:45 p.m. — Draft Horse Demonstration; 2:30 p.m. — S.P.C.A. Adoption Process; 3 p.m. — Nut Tree Grafting Demonstration; 3:45

p.m. — Gigantic Ice Cream Sundae.

A number of activities will also be taking place throughout the day including a petting zoo, horse show, hatching chicken eggs, farm equipment displays, farm fresh produce for sale, children's games, draft horses, exhibits, wood carving, wool spinning, pony rides (small fee will be charged), building your own scarecrow, watermelon eating contests held every hour beginning at 11 a.m.; and plenty of refreshments and ice cream.

For more information contact Donna Grey, Penn State Cooperative Extension, at (717) 825-1701 or (717) 602-0600; or Pam Fedak, Farm Service Agency, at (717) 779-0732.

Pennsylvania Requires Vet Certificates

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10-day to two-week period for resolution of the symptoms.

"This is a precautionary step to protect our very important animal industry in Pennsylvania," Hayes said. "There never has been a case of vesicular stomatitis diagnosed in Pennsylvania, and we want to make sure we remain free of the disease."

The viral disease is found predominantly in horses, cattle and swine, and is spread by insects. Sheep and goats can also be affected.

The official veterinary certificate required for animals coming into Pennsylvania from those three states must certify that the animals have been examined and found to be free of vesicular stomatitis. Further, animals must not have originated from, nor have been exposed to, premises where the disease has been diagnosed within the past 30 days.

The certification requirement is to stay in effect until Jan. 1, 1999, unless rescinded earlier. If that happens, a published notice will be made.

The disease shows up almost every year in the Southwest and doesn't have a common name.

Anyone with suspect animals should contact the veterinarian immediately.

Of the states observing such a similar certification program in an attempt to prevent the spread of disease, Kentucky not only requires certificates from animals coming from those three states, but also from the adjoining states.

For those not residing in Pennsylvania, contact a state agriculture department official for local guidance.

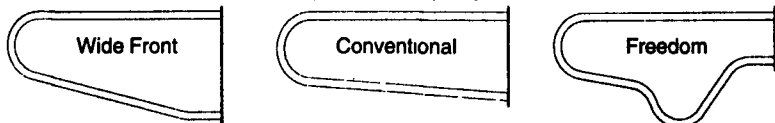
For more information about certificate requirements, contact the PDA Bureau of Animal Health and Diagnostic Services at (717) 783-6677.



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