



Life Size



The hosts of the Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Summer Field Day gather around the farm sign. They are from left, Donald Anderson, Diane McElhane Anderson, Anglea Benham, national Shorthorn lassie queen, and seated, Marie McElhane. David McElhane was also a host. Photo by Marsha Chess, Mercer County correspondent.

Pennsylvania Cattlemen Summer Field Day At McElhane Farm

MARSHA ANN CHESSE
Mercer Co. Correspondent
HOOKSTOWN (Beaver Co.) — Members of the Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association met here for their 23rd Annual Summer Field Day at the McElhane Stock Farm and the Hookstown Fairgrounds on a hot July Saturday.

The event included the 1998 Pa. State Shorthorn Show and the Beaver County Blue Ribbon Preview Show, which were held at the Hookstown Fairground. Back at the farm cattlemen could participate in a variety of tours and workshops including pasture management, water control systems, fencing systems, estrus synchronization, ova transfer, and hoof trimming.

A tour of the Duquesne Light Nuclear Power Plant was offered

to interested parties. During the lunch break Mr. Randy K. Hareza, Attorney-at-Law, Baden, spoke on "Electric Fence and Other Potential Legal Liabilities." Dr. Terry Etherton, Head of the Department of Dairy and Animal Science at Penn State, spoke on "Challenges and Opportunities for Pennsylvania Animal Agriculture."

Cattlemen members took part in a Cow-Pie-Bingo contest and continued the workshops during the afternoon. The cow pie ended up in an unclaimed square, so the winners were the Shorthorn youth who received the prize money.

During the evening the guests took part in the Keystone Rib-Eye Steak Dinner and a country hoe-down.



The Marlin Hoff family will host this year's Maryland Holstein picnic at Coldsprings Farms. From left, Ian, Marlin and Kathy, and Matt with Courtney, and Debbie holding baby Brook Hoff. Photo by Karen Butler, Maryland correspondent.

Coldsprings Farms To Host Maryland Holstein Picnic

KAREN BUTLER
Maryland Correspondent
NEW WINDSOR, Md. — The annual Maryland Holstein Picnic will be hosted this year by the Marlin Hoff family at Coldsprings Farms, near New Windsor. This will be the fifth year the state association has held a picnic, and 4-500 people are expected to attend. The date is Saturday, August 8. Starting time is 10:30 a.m. You do not need to be a member of the association to attend the picnic; all are welcome.

The event offers Holstein enthusiasts an opportunity to enjoy a day of fellowship with other breeders. A barbecue lunch will be

provided, and there will be farm tours, a cow judging contest, a meeting for the Maryland juniors, and door prizes. Agribusinesses will have a display area set up at the farm. There will also be a calf raffle for the Maryland juniors, of a March "Luke" out of an 88-point "Aerostar." The next dam is an excellent Bell.

Coldsprings Farms is widely recognized as a premier breeder of Holsteins. If you have an interest in visiting a large, successful dairy with a high herd average and a nationally renowned breeding program that has that has sold about a dozen proven bulls to studs over

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Hedging, Options, Futures May Spell Survival

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Risk has always been associated with farming. Farmers, interested in reducing that risk, look for ways to ensure a reliable financial future in farming.

For some, hedging, options, and futures may spell survival.

But is it for everyone?

And how does it really work?

These issues were examined in depth during the IX Ag Horizons Conference held in Harrisburg on Tuesday. The day-long conference examined how changing government attitudes are affecting agriculture, and how hedging, options, and futures can be tools to help farmers.

Russ Redding, deputy secretary for the Pa. Dept. of Agriculture, said that government attitudes

toward agriculture are changing, not by choice but forced by budget restraints.

"The key to improving prosperity for agriculture is to improve trade," Redding said in response to statistics that show that 96 percent of the the world's population is outside of the United States. Already one-third of the United States's agriculture products are being exported to other countries.

A main focus of the United States government is to reduce trade barriers so that agricultural products can be more freely exported. Steps in this direction have enabled the trade segment to grow faster than any other part of the economy. An example of the government's work to benefit ag is seen from exempting agricultural products from trade embargoes

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The grand champions of the Northwest Championship Holstein Show along with owners and officials are from left, Fred Strouse, owner, reserve grand champion; Heather Morrell; Chris Hill, judge; Lacey Zakostecky, Crawford County dairy princess; Robert Morrell, owner, reserve grand champion; Mark Campbell, owner, grand champion; Rachel, Sarah, and Mark Campbell; and Beckie Raffaner, Armstrong County dairy princess. See photo report on page A22.