

Penn State Dairymen's Club Celebrates 20th Anniversary

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other and current students.

Its official mission is: "To encourage the development of strong dairy science instruction, research, and extension programs at Penn State University through member involvement and support."

However, in the terms of its members, the Dairymen's Club serves as an effective mentoring organization, as well as a knowledge and generational bridge between current students and former students and instructors.

In an era when the dairying community has become more fragmented and in some cases isolated,

such an organization has become increasingly more important.

According to alumni and college staff, the organization, while limited in specific involvements with the college, is key to maintaining a mutual awareness of the educational and research opportunities and needs.

It is lauded as a catalyst for exchanging information and networking.

It also provides an extra dimension to studying dairy animal science — a sense of continuing commitment and caring by those who came before.

Even those no longer active in the organization have said that

while they would like to return to being active, they can't, but only because their personal life has become too busy and compelling to allow much extraneous activity.

At the annual meeting, the organization was to have held an election for three directors to its board, and the board was to have reorganized.

Also scheduled was the recognition of the recipient of the club's Poage Grant-in-Aid — an annual scholarship program that essentially rewards young dairy science students who have excelled in 4-H dairy judging.

This year's Poage Grant-in-Aid has been presented to Andrew

Reed of Reedsville.

Reed, 20, now a sophomore studying dairy and animal science, received the \$500 scholarship earlier this year. He was unable to attend the annual meeting to receive the recognition because he was to have been in Louisville, Kentucky, to compete in dairy judging as a member of a four-person team representing Penn State.

Raised on his family's 150-acre dairy farm, where his parents, James and Mary Reed, keep a 32-head milking string of registered Holsteins, Reed owns about 20 registered Holsteins of all ages.

He said his family's business is based on milk sales, but they have a goal of breeding for good animals for herd replacements and to be able to offer some well-bred heifers for sale.

They have maintained a closed herd for many years.

"I started out in 4-H, in general showing cows," Reed said, "and a meeting one day, they asked if people were interested in judging. My dad was for it, and I gave it a shot, and it turned out to be quite rewarding."

Over the 10 years as a 4-H member, Reed did well. However, he earned the award based on his dairy judging achievements during his last year in 4-H.

Reed was the first place winner in the 1997 state 4-H Achievement Days dairy judging contest; he qualified as an All American Judge in the 1997 national 4-H dairy judging contest; was a member of the 1997 4-H national dairy judging team which placed first in reasons, and second overall; and was the top individual in the Jersey cattle division at the 1997 Pennsylvania All-American Dairy Show 4-H judging contest.

The \$500 Poage Grant-in-Aid is to be used toward college expenses.

According to Dale Olver, extension dairy youth activities coordinator, the College's Dairy Sciences Department Scholarship Committee selects a Poage recipient based on previous judging experience and potential to be a contributing member in collegiate judging. Someone who has had an outstanding 4-H judging career and has an interest in collegiate judging.

Reed said dairy judging skills and knowledge have great value.

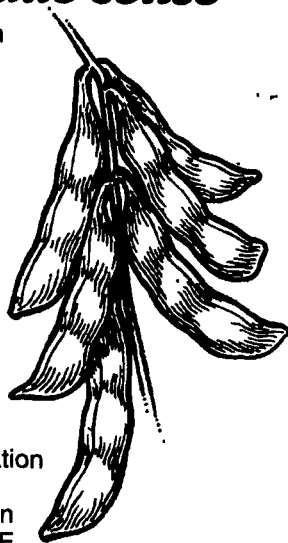
"One definite benefit I see, is I can pick out good animals that need to stay in the herd, and good animals I want to buy, and I hope to help people with their animals. I might try to be a judge someday, it's a possibility."

(Turn to Page A43)

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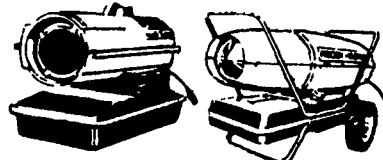
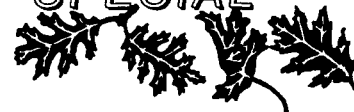
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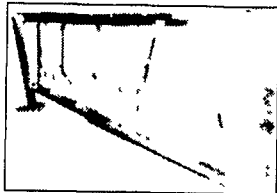
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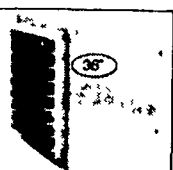
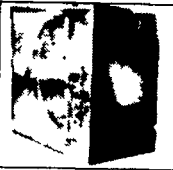


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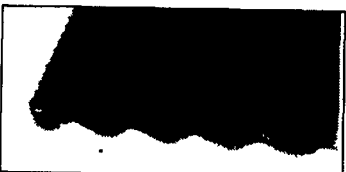
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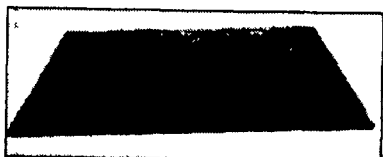


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