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Dairy Practices Council Works For Mutual Benefit

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The Dairy Practices Council (DPC) held its annual convention Nov. 5 at the Harrisburg East Holiday Inn to continue its ongoing technical work in providing practical guidelines for dairy practices, to be informed about issues of concern, and to hold its annual business meeting.

The national DPC organization is an all-volunteer, collaborative effort of three distinct sectors of the dairy business — the dairy production and manufacturing industry, the regulatory agencies concerned with the dairy industry, and dairy education institutions and individuals.

Through a number of standing committees, called task forces, the DPC has over the years put together a series of instructional and technical publications that serve all concerned with the dairy industry as the most accurate and

up-to-date sources of information. The publications contain information that is not readily available through the land grant university extension system.

(Over the years, especially with a lack of federal support funding, the extension system has become involved with and dependent upon the creation of research publication and outreach nonprofit organizations, such as the Northeast Regional Agricultural Engineering Service and the Mastitis Council. These organizations publish technical reports and charge a compensatory fee. The publications contain useful information that otherwise would not be accessible to producers or the general industry.)

Further, the information presented by DPC has the benefit of being peer reviewed, which adds tremendously to its soundness.

Especially with today's new communications technology, the lack of distinction between scientifically sound information and

commercialized information cleverly designed to persuade and convince consumers has allowed a mushrooming growth of businesses with names sounding deceptively legitimate.

The DPC is a multiple industry organization devoted to researching and evaluating information that has proven or repeated perfor-

mance. In addition, the organizations that comprise the DPC membership use the information DPC publishes, they don't just help make it to sell.

The slogan of the DPC is "Quality and uniformity through education and cooperation."

The goal is to foster the growth of quality dairy product through

quality and uniform practices.

Currently DPC offers 66 publications, some updated annually, others updated every five years, depending on advances and the nature of the subject matter.

Topics range from planning freestall dairy barns to trouble

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Bill and Karen Flagg, who farm with their two sons, Dean, 14 and Chris, 12, stand outside their homestead, built in the mid-1700s. Recently the Flagg family sent shipments of fullblood Simmental embryos and semen to the Ostaszewski family in Poland. Photo by Andy Andrews

Deadlines Change For Thanksgiving

The *Lancaster Farming* office will be closed Thursday, November 26 in observance of Thanksgiving Day. News and advertising deadlines for that week are as follows:

- Public sale ads — Noon, Monday, 11/23.
- Mailbox markets — 5 p.m. Friday, 11/20.

- General News — Noon, Wednesday, 11/25.
- Section D ads — 5 p.m. Tuesday, 11/24
- Farm equipment ads. — 9 a.m., Wednesday, 11/25.
- All other ads — 5 p.m., Tuesday, 11/24

USDA NRCS, EPA To Hold Meeting On AFO Proposal

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — One of six national meetings concerning the federal government's proposals for nutrient management planning for livestock operations is set to be held from 2-5 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 17, at the Sheraton Inn Harrisburg East, in Union Deposit.

Earlier this year, a joint proposal from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency was published in the Federal Register for a strategy by the agencies to use existing authorities and programs to encourage all livestock farmers to adopt nutrient management plans.

The joint proposal is called the USDA/EPA Unified Joint Strategy for Animal Feeding Operations.

The meeting about the strategy is being called a "public listening session," and the purpose is to collect public comment.

The session is open to all, though those wishing to speak need to provide advanced notice in writing, or register to speak upon arriving at the meeting.

Those wishing to make oral presentations during Tuesday's public listening session should forward a written request to Jane Oertly, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, One Credit Union Place, Suite 340, Harrisburg, PA 17110, or call (717) 237-2202.

Presentations will be limited to 3-5 minutes depending on the number of people wishing to speak. Participants may also register to speak upon arrival at the meeting. Requests will be honored on a first-come, first-service basis.

Written comments can be mailed to Denise Coleman, program analyst, Natural Resources Conservation Service, ATTN: AFO, P.O. Box 2890, Washington, D.C. 20013-2890.

Written comments are being accepted by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) until Jan. 19, 1999.

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Pennsylvania Simmental Genetics Make New Home In Poland

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
ELVERSON (Chester Co.) — For the Jacek Ostaszewski (pronounced "oshefski") family from Bialstok, a town in the northeast region of Poland, an American family has given them a new lease on farm life.

In an area previously dominated by state-owned communist farmland, a farm family is hoping to adopt western-style management — and bring in proven western-style beef herd genetics.

In mid-October, shipments of fullblood Simmental embryos and semen were made to the Ostaszewski family from Warren Point, a fullblood Simmental cow/calf farm operated by Bill, Karen, Dean, and Christopher Flagg in Elverson.

With the help of Em Tran, Inc., Elizabethtown, through Steve Mower, director of export promotions, Warren Point shipped the beef genetics to help improve the beef herd in the former communist country, which has very few real beef cows.

The bulk of the embryos were from Athena, the Flagg's 19-year-old fullblood cow whose dam was imported from the Fleckvieh reg-

ion of southern Germany in the mid-1970s. According to Karen Flagg, Athena's sons have consistently excelled when placed on test at the Penn State Meat Animal Evaluation Center.

Semen from one of those sons, purchased by Sire Power, Tunkhannock, was also shipped to Poland.

At an interview at the Flagg farm in Elverson, Bill and Karen

spoke about the challenge of delivering Simmental beef genetics to a family in Poland.

"The Polish people and government are interested in getting new technology from other parts of the world," Karen said. Since the fall of communism, the beef breeders are welcoming in new technology and other parts of the world to "take a lead in the new govern-

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26,000 Member State Farm Bureau Meeting Next Week

CAMP HILL (Cumberland Co.) — Sen. James Gerlach (R-44th Dist.), a leader in the campaign to enact school property tax reform earlier this year, will speak at the opening luncheon of Pennsylvania Farm Bureau's 48th annual meeting, Monday, Nov. 16 in Hershey.

Several hundred Farm Bureau leaders, including 172 voting delegates, will be meeting at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Nov. 16-18, to elect leaders and set policies on issues confronting agriculture.

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau

(PFB) is a non-governmental, voluntary farm organization which represents 26,121 member families in 54 county farm bureaus. It is affiliated with the nation's largest general farm organization, the 4.8-million member American Farm Bureau Federation.

Sen. Gerlach will speak on "Tax Relief — What's Next?" during the opening luncheon which begins at 11:45 a.m., Monday. Sen. Gerlach organized and coordinated the Help for Homeowners Coalition in 1997. The statewide coalition of local

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