

Market Growers Sought on Shore

Lower Shore fruit and vegetable growers making plans for 1999 are asked to consider selling at farmers' markets as part of their marketing says Tony Evans of the Maryland Department of Agriculture.

"There are openings at the well-established Salisbury Farmers' Market operated by the Shore Fresh Growers Association as well as openings at the highly successful Ocean City Farmers' market."

"The search is really on for an apple producer at these two markets as well as a market in Berlin," he said.

"Growers in Delaware, and the Maryland counties or Dorchester, Wicomico, Worcester and Somerset should really look into the Lower Shore markets which together operate six days a week in season," Mr. Evans concluded.

Interested producers can contact Mr. Evans at (410) 841-5770.




The Ephrata Young Farmers presented a \$2,500 check to the Lancaster County 4-H Therapeutic Riding Program, Wednesday, at the Graystone Farms riding stables near Leola. The money represented profits from the Young Farmer's food stand at the Ephrata Fair this summer. A few years ago, the Ephrata farmers had donated KoJak, one of the ponies used in the program for youth with disabilities. The new check was given for KoJak's keep.

Present for the presentation are from left, Carol Henkel, Tim Weaver riding Cracker Jack, Robin Flegal, Jan Birch, Tara Graver riding KoJack, Amy Graver, and Liby Craver, association president, receiving the check from Doris and John Zimmerman, representing the Ephrata Young

Farmers.

A feature story on the program appeared in the June 13, 1998 issue of *Lancaster Farming*. The program serves about 75 clients, both adult and youth, with 7 horses and ponies. Volunteers handle the work of helping the riders in rehabilitation programs afforded by the movement and warmth of the animals. Anyone who would like to make a donation to the program may call the association's treasurer, Lee Ann Ressler, (717) 299-2163. Volunteers interested in working with people of various disability levels may call the volunteer coordinator, Nancie Doyle, (717) 687-8547. Photo by Everett Newswanger, managing editor.



DAIRY FARM MANAGEMENT BASICS

A Farm Management Course by
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Archived at Internet Home Page www.lancasterfarming.com

Herd Health - Article 26

The next group of articles will focus on herd health

Good herd health is crucial to the success of your dairy business. It protects the large capital investment you have in cattle, and it provides your herd an opportunity to do well and be profitable.

A good herd health program consists of

- Curing the herd of present diseases and ailments
- Implementing an effective biosecurity program to prevent cattle from acquiring new diseases
- Protecting cattle from injuries
- Implementing a preventive health program that includes routine herd checks by a veterinarian. This is usually more cost effective than programs that focus primarily on curing problems after they occur
- Maintaining a close working relationship with your veterinarian

Dairy Feeding Systems Conference Dec. 8-10 Camp Hill

ITHACA N.Y. - More than 400 dairy producers, farm managers, and professionals in related fields will meet in Camp Hill, Pa., Dec. 8-10 to learn about current research and share personal experience concerning dairy feeding systems.

Entitled "Dairy Feeding Systems: Management, Components, and nutrients," the conference will bring more than 30 speakers to the Radisson Penn Harris Hotel and Convention center to share their knowledge on all aspects of dairy feeding systems components and management.

Participants may still register for the conference, which will explore how feeding systems impact milk production, labor requirements, capital investments, cropping systems, excess nutrients, and overall farm prof-

itability. Only 50 seats are left for this event.

Included in the three-day program are presentations on feeding systems and herd health, choosing storage facilities, forage allocation, contracting for feed, coping with catastrophic loss, TMR mixers and management, worker training, grouping strategies, feed bunks, water quality, cow comfort, shrinkage, feed quality, economics, and nutrient management. Speakers from academia and industry will include animal scientists, engineers, consultants, veterinarians, and agronomists.

The conference will offer a combination of presentations, panel discussions, and informal discussions. Plenty of time will be dedicated to audience questions.

On Tuesday evening, Dec. 8,

conference participants are invited to a reception and trade show. Evening discussions on Wednesday, Dec. 9, will focus on TMR mixer management, bunker silo management, and energy management throughout the lactation cycle.

In addition to dairy producers and farm managers, attendees will include producer advisers and consultants; extension and university educators; nutritionists; crop advisors; feed, seed, and equipment sales representatives; nutrient managers and agronomists; veterinarians; agricultural engineers; and facility designers. The program will also be of interest to policy makers, lenders, and professionals working in agricultural media.

The registration fee for the conference is \$260 in U.S. funds.

The fee includes admission to the conference, one lunch, break refreshments, reception refreshments, evening discussions, and a copy of the 408-page conference proceedings.

Complete conference information can also be found on the NRAES Web page. <[HTTP://NRAES.ORG](http://NRAES.ORG)>. Registrations will be accepted via the Internet or by telephone or fax for those who wish to pay by credit card. Walk-in registrations may also be offered for remaining seats at the Radisson Penn Harris beginning at 6 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 7. Call NRAES for information. To register or to receive copies of the free conference brochure, contact NRAES, Cooperative Extension, 152 Riley-Robb Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853-5701, (607) 255-7654; fax (607) 254-8770; e-mail [nraes@](mailto:nraes@cornell.edu)

cornell.edu

A block of rooms has been reserved for conference participants at the Radisson Penn Harris Hotel and Convention Center. To reserve a room, call the Radisson Penn Harris Hotel at (717) 763-7117 or (800) 333-3333. For those who act quickly, rooms may still be available at a special conference rate. Mention "Dairy Feeding Conference" to receive the special conference rate of \$65, plus 6 percent tax, for a single, double, triple, or quad.


MILK
 Where's your mustache?

Natural Immunity

Basically, there are two forms of immunity. One form is acquired naturally. The other form is acquired through vaccination. This article will focus primarily on natural immunity.

- Cattle develop natural immunity to many of the diseases they have been exposed to in life.

They have a tremendous ability to fight off infections naturally, that is, IF they are healthy and have developed an effective immune system, and IF their immune system has not jeopardized by a variety of stressful situations such as: calving difficulties, malnutrition, change of feeds, toxins, weaning, regrouping, overcrowding, dirty environments, poor ventilation, injuries, excessive parasite loads, trucking, infections, diseases, etc.

The goal should be to minimize these stresses so the animal's immune system has a greater chance of functioning effectively.

- Cows pass their natural immunity on to their calves through their colostrum milk, that is, IF the calf drinks enough of the colostrum soon enough after birth, and IF the colostrum is of good quality. The quality of colostrum can be determined by using a colostrometer to measure its specific gravity which is an indication of its globulin content.
- The colostrum of older cows in the herd generally is of higher quality than that of younger cows and heifers, or of cows that have been brought into the herd from other farms. The older cows that have resided in your herd have had more exposure to the diseases present in your herd. Therefore, their colostrum should give calves better immunity to the diseases they will be exposed to in your herd.

As soon as calves are born, a race takes place between germs and colostrum to see which gets to the gut first and which gets absorbed into the blood stream.

Thus, it becomes VERY IMPORTANT to get about 2 quarts of colostrum into the newborn calf (1.5 quarts for small calves) within the first hour or two after birth, and another 1.5 - 2.0 quarts within the first 8-12 hours after birth. IT IS THE CHEAPEST AND SINGLE MOST EFFECTIVE PROTECTION A CALF WILL EVER GET!! DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!!

It may be impossible to get calves to drink this much colostrum this soon after birth; they might have to be force fed with an esophageal tube. If you do tube-feed the calf, be sure you get the tube into the esophagus and not into the lungs.

This passive immunity, which the calf gets from the colostrum, lasts about 4-6 months. If this passive immunity is still present when the young calf is vaccinated at a young age, it may render these early vaccinations ineffective. Therefore, if you do vaccinate calves at a young age, you may want to revaccinate them again after 6 months, or delay vaccinating calves until they are about 6 months of age. However, if the calf did not get much passive immunity from colostrum, for whatever reason, early vaccination may be beneficial. Consult your veterinarian for advice.