

Dehoff, Miller Families Share York Ag Honors

(Continued from Page A1)

brother, Henry, likewise joined the family farm operation after finishing high school.

Seven members of three generations of the family now help make up the workforce of this diverse dairy operation, long recognized in the county for its dedication to soil conservation. Jack oversees most of the milking responsibilities, while Henry handles the feeding programs. Jack's wife, Sandy, does the bookkeeping. Their oldest son, Andy, 23, handles much of the crop work in addition to holding an off-farm job. Sons Shane, 21, and Tyler, 19, also hold off-farm jobs and help with farm responsibilities as needed.

Miller Plant Farms operates a diverse horticulture enterprise with roots in the early part of the century. Dave Miller, who manages the family business, is a third-generation in the greenhouse, produce and retail marketing enterprises. His nephew, Steven Slyder, works closely with him in handling the various farm operations.

This family farm on Indian Rock Dam Road was established

in 1910, with the first greenhouse constructed by Jacob Miller in 1929 to grow transplants for his produce business. The transplants were so successful that, within ten years, Miller began marketing them to other growers.

Today's plant customers range from other commercial, vegetable producers in York, Lancaster and surrounding counties to thousands of backyard gardeners who purchase Miller-grown transplants from area garden centers and markets. In addition, the Millers raise acres of produce, including sweet corn and melons, and market their plants, vegetables, flowers and fruits at both Central and Eastern farmers markets.

In addition to Dave Miller, his wife Diane, and nephew Steve Slyder, his parents John & Betty Miller remain active in operating this long-established greenhouse and retailing center. About a half-dozen other full and part-time employees round out the Miller Plant Farm staff.

Also recognized were participants in two ag-outreach programs that have become county



Three generations of Dehoff dairy producers joined in accepting the York Ag Industry Farm Family of the Year award. From left, seated, are Patti, Albert and Sandy, rear, Shane, Henry, Jack, Tyler and Andy.

traditions, the Farm Visitation Day, held annually on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, and the Agricultural Exchange, in which a farmer and non-farmer are paired to share a day of experiencing each other's jobs.

Saluted as hosts for the visitation day were Airville-area farm operations H. E. Heindel and Sons Farm, operated by Horace and Jeff Heindel, Crist's Tree Farm owned by Doug and Anne Crist, Harry and Beth's Bickel's Alta Vista Farm West, and Ray Warner, Alan Keeney and Francine Rexroth, Farmers Equipment and Supply.

Paired for the ag-exchange work days were Becky Innerst of DunVal Dairy Farm and Michael Jefferson of York Crispus Attucks, Richard Barton, Barton's Fruit Farms, with York Suburban High School guidance counselor Arlene Schmitt, Senator Mike Waugh, 28th Senatorial District paired for a workday with Maple Lawn

Farm's Gail McPherson, and Pat Buser, Buser Farms, who shared career experiences with Jo Anna Shovlin, aide to state Representative Stan Saylor.

Keynote speaker for the event was Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Sam Hayes. Hayes noted York County's prominence in farmland preservation programs and emphasized the need to maintain food production capability for the public good. He voiced concerns that over-regulation could drive agriculture out of the state as a foundation part of the economy and noted that regulatory measures must be based on sound economic reason.

"There is nothing wrong with men and women in agriculture expecting a reasonable return on their occupation," Hayes said, adding his opinion that many who are successful in other career endeavors might find themselves challenged to manage a farm as well as they manage their current businesses.

Hayes also caught the attention of the ag-business attendees when he noted that by February 9, the average American worker will have earned enough to buy food for the entire year. By comparison, that same theoretical worker would have to work well into the month of May to pay his or her next tax bill.

The Secretary praised the level of food safety in the Commonwealth, noting that over one million school cafeteria lunches were served to the state's students, with "not one food crises in all that time."

"Agriculture is the foundation of this society," Hayes reminded the York ag-business group. "If we want to continue to live free, we must have a strong agriculture."

The Agriculture Recognition program is sponsored by the York County Chamber of Commerce, Penn State Cooperative Extension of York County and the York County Farmers' Association.



Miller Plant Farms is York County's Ag Industry of the Year. Representing the Miller family's diverse horticultural operation are, from left, Steven and Kandi Slyder and Diane and Dave Miller.

All Dairy Youth Invited To Penn State All-Breeds Convention

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — All Pennsylvania dairy youth have been invited to attend the third annual Pennsylvania Junior All-Breeds convention, Feb. 12-14 in State College.

Sponsored by the Penn State University Dairy Science Club, the All-Breeds Convention was initiated in response to a lack of a junior convention or comparable convention activities to what is available through the Pennsylvania Junior Holstein Association.

Some dairy breeds aren't officially recognized or supported through local organizations, most other dairy breeds only hold conventions directed for all ages of members, especially adults.

The All-Breeds Convention is open to any junior (youth) who owns any breed of dairy cattle.

The announcement of the third convention was made this week, too late for the original deadline for convention registration, and too late for the original deadline for hotel registration.

Dale Olver, Penn State dairy professor and coordinator of Penn State Extension youth dairy programs, has extended the registration by telephone until Feb. 3. But the

deadline cannot be extended beyond then.

Those interested should call his office immediately (between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.) at (814) 865-7638.

The Day's Inn in State College is serving as convention headquarters, although activities extend onto the Penn State Main Campus.

Olver has no control over the deadline for registration at the Day's Inn, and the original deadline was Jan. 10.

As of Thursday, a spokesperson for the hotel management said there were still rooms available, but the availability was likely to disappear quickly, as Feb. 14 is Valentine's Day.

According to hotel officials, those interested in reserving a room need to call 1-800-258-3297 immediately and indicate that a reservation is being sought in conjunction with the Pa. Junior All-Breeds Convention.

Room rates had been \$68 per night for rooms suitable for one to four people.

The convention is designed to provide dairy youth an opportunity to learn, have fun, and socialize with people sharing a common interest.

Registration check-in for the

convention runs from 6-9 p.m., Feb. 12, in the lobby of the Day's Inn.

From 7:30 p.m. until 9 p.m., on the schedule are a pizza party, socializing and a dance to music to be provided by disc jockey Kirk Sattazahn. Lights are to be out at 11:30 p.m.

Attendance at the conference requires that each youth pledge to good behavior, and to following a specific code of conduct. A parent's signature is required along with the signature of the youth making the pledge.

Those who misbehave or break the rules are to be sent back home at the expense of the parents of the youth and barred from ever participating in another All-Breeds convention.

According to Victoria Ansell, chairperson of the Junior All-Breeds Convention Committee, "the event is designed for owners of all dairy breeds who are interested in learning about the dairy industry and having fun."

"Workshops and events, such as a mock sale, will have a distinct emphasis on material about all dairy breeds."

On Saturday, Feb. 13, registration check-in is open again from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m.

A dairy bar is to be open from 7-8:30 a.m.

Promptly at 8:30 a.m. vans are to leave the hotel to transport conventioners to the Penn State Agricultural Sciences Building (ASB). A continental breakfast is to be provided for participants in the ASI lobby, at 8:45 a.m.

Workshops are to begin promptly at 9:15 a.m. and the location depends on the age level of the participants. (Specific age distinctions were not made in the announcement.)

The workshop for those who are junior-aged is to be involved with the World Wide Web (Internet), milk products, and a tour of the Penn State Creamery.

The workshop for those who qualify as intermediate-aged is to provide an in-depth presentation on dairy nutrition, and be a multiple-part series.

For senior-aged youth, the workshop is also designed as a multiple-part series focusing on dairy cattle reproductive physiology.

Another workshop designed for

attending parents is to include an introduction to the World Wide Web and conducting a mock sale.

Lunch is to include a speaker panel and is set to run from 12 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. The topics of the speaker panel are to be agricultural careers and/or breeding and marketing of dairy cattle.

Free time for participants is set for 2:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Dinner is set for 6:15 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at the Day's Inn.

From 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. a mock sale is to be held, followed by a dance from 9 p.m. until midnight. Lights are to be out by 12:30 a.m.

On Sunday, Feb. 14, a 9 a.m. brunch is scheduled at the Day's Inn with John Rogers, of Belleville, as speaker.

Check-out of the hotel is at 11:30 a.m.

The turnout of the convention is expected to be good, according to convention officials.

Students on the convention planning committee have sought to increase the depth of information and hands-on aspects of workshops for intermediate-aged and senior-aged dairy youth.

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