

# Lancaster Farming

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## Pennsylvania Holstein Youth Honored, Adults Set For Convention

**WILKES-BARRE (Luzerne Co.)** — The Pennsylvania Junior Holstein Convention was held last week at the Ramada Plaza Hotel, the same place the adult convention will be held this week. Not only a great social event, the youth convention is a platform for numerous awards given to talented and energetic young Holstein breeders.

The 1999 Pennsylvania Holstein Association Convention for the adult Holstein breeders is set to run Thursday to Saturday, Feb. 18-20. The slogan for both con-

ventions is, "Holsteins Shine in '99!"

This year's adult convention features several additions of interest, but the first day of the convention is traditionally sale day.

According to PHA officials, 71 lots are to be offered for sale in the hotel, starting at 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 18. The sale catalog was to include about a dozen fresh cows; 8 to 10 choices of matings, and the balance divided about equally between bred heifers, open heifers, and calves.

But there is to be lots of activity

on the first day before the sale gets underway.

For those finding it difficult to find enough time to get everything done on the farm, the convention is to feature two panel discussions, this year focusing on time and employee management.

### Panel Discussions

The panel discussions are to be held Thursday, Feb. 18, the first starting at 1:30 p.m. on "Recapitulating Time."

Moderated by Mark Bachman, the discussion will feature three panelists — Dr. Ron Buffington of Rosebuff Consulting; Kaye Slusser, former owner with husband Dave of Orange Bucket Farm, and Nelson Troutman of

Oakenbound Holsteins, in Richland.

According to a news release, Buffington's past and present experience in the dairy industry, combined with his sense of humor, should offer insight into getting everything done in a day. He is expected to add a light touch to very useful information in making the most of the time available.

Concerning Slusser, the news release noted, "Mrs. Slusser has a wealth of information on how to make the most of your valuable time, and we are guaranteeing that you will leave the discussion with many hints which will help you run your home or barn more smoothly."

Nelson Troutman is a dairy farmer and breeder of registered Holsteins, well-known for his animals and upbeat personality.

According to the PHA news release, "Mr. Troutman has been known to 'squeeze time,' using labor-saving tricks and devices to get the most out of his day. His wit

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Distinguished junior members of the Pennsylvania Holstein Association were honored last week at the Junior Convention. The senior division finalists are from left, David and Matthew Day, state winners. Standing, Lynette Heffner, Michael Yoder, and Janice Youse.

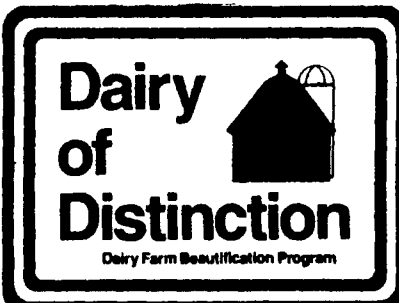
## Dairy Of Distinction Applications

**UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.)** — A simple premise is the foundation of the Northeast Dairy Farm Beautification Program, also known as the Dairy of Distinction program.

That premise is that an attractive, sanitary appearing dairy farm conveys to the public the perception that the milk coming out of that farm must be good.

Combined with the fact that most people's experience with a

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Bob Oswald narrows his hay management down to a few time-tested strategies that can almost guarantee success: making the most of good, well-drained soils; soil testing regularly; and cutting the alfalfa on time and getting it stored when ready. He's profiled in the special section, *Foraging Around*, in this issue of *Lancaster Farming*. Photo by Andy Andrews

## Pork Expo Features Trade Show

### With Right Tools, Vets Can Pinpoint Timely PRRS Vaccinations

**ANDY ANDREWS  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
NORTH CORNWALL (Lebanon Co.)** — There was a time when swine veterinarians were searching for the right tools to pinpoint exactly what kind of disease carriers exist in a herd, their amounts, and ways they enter the barn.

For years they relied on inexact tools, such as antibody sampling. But antibody sampling tests still had their shortcomings, especially when dealing with a wily, unpredictable swine disease such as porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS).

But there's new hope, with a technology called polymerase

chain reaction (PCR), a molecular-level diagnostic tool that can actually look for and pinpoint the virus.

And the key to controlling PRRS in a herd, according to Scott Dee, University of Minnesota associate professor of swine medicine and world-renowned PRRS expert, is knowing exactly when the "infection happens in the pig before we vaccinate," he said.

Dee spoke to about 100 pork producers and agri-industry representatives Wednesday morning during the educational seminar portion of the 21st Keystone Pork Expo and trade show at the Lebanon Fairgrounds.

Dee believes that vaccination

programs sometimes aren't used wisely to control the disease because of the way the disease, caused by a virus, behaves in a herd. "We have to come up with ways to use the vaccine more efficaciously to control the disease," said Dee.

Dee has worked with PRRS since 1988, when it was known simply as the "mystery disease," he said. The easy changeability of the genetic structure of the virus is what concerns scientists. Dee calls it a "plastic virus" because it can change a lot, and overvaccination can be a problem. Also, many vaccine products don't provide long

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At the Keystone Pork Expo Wednesday, the Marion Center FFA defeated Bucks County 4-H in the final round of the Pork Bowl. The first-place Marion Center team is composed of, from left, Joe Abel, Cristen Hetrick, Lauren Ferringer, and Nathan Elkin. Photo by Andy Andrews