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Industrial pollution in the water supply around McConellsburg has raised questions about the future for the next generation, including Caitlin Glazier, almost 4 years old. Caitlin holds some of the prize-winning corn from the field of her grandfather, Kenneth L. Glazier. Read more about the Glazier's plight in the section, *Corn Talk*, in this issue. *Photo by David Hiebert*

Generation After Generation, Cattle Learn To 'Weed Out' Best Forages

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
GRANTVILLE (Dauphin Co.)
— Animals on pasture have been working for millennia to perfect the process of forage selection at ground level, while university research on the process stretches back only about 50 years.

Determining exactly how a grazing animal can select for plant parts with protein levels differing sometimes to a minuscule percentage as part of their genetic programming continues to receive university attention, according to a forage expert who spoke Wednesday morning.

"I put a lot of confidence in animals, in what they can do," said Jim Gerrish of the Forage Systems Research Center of the University of Missouri. Gerrish noted the grazing animals develop almost a "business sense" of how to select for improved nutrient value among the forages in the field, generation after generation.

And scientists are still trying to understand how.

In the meantime, work on improving forage quality continues at the university.

Gerrish, an experienced grazer for a beef cow/calf and finish herd,

spoke at the two-day Pennsylvania Grazing and Forage Conference at the Holiday Inn, Grantville. More than 130 producers and agri-industry representatives attended the event Wednesday and Thursday this week.

During Wednesday's session, Gerrish spoke about steps to obtain and maintain pasture quality.

Gerrish noted that he had recently returned from a national symposium on forage quality. He ex-

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A PFGC Special Award for forage and grazing contributions to the industry was presented to Larry Muller, Penn State Dairy and Animal Science Department, left, at the Pennsylvania Grazing and Forage Conference. Paul Craig presented the award. *Photo by Andy Andrews*

Reasons For Biosecurity Won't Wait For Dairy Industry To Act

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff

CAMP HILL (Cumberland Co.) — The laissez-faire attitude of many dairy producers toward biosecurity is potentially one of the most serious business risks faced by the industry today.

It is also a major drain on dairy farming operational costs.

According to David Tomsche, DVM, with Veterinary Associates

of Melrose-Albany-Upsala, in Melrose, Minnesota, current practices of the dairy cow farming industry are inadequate to deal with the threat of infectious disease.

"To say the least, there is significant room for improvement relative to the current state of the heifer replacement business in the United States," Tomsche said.

He was one of 15 speakers who

gave presentations as part of the two-day 1999 Mid-Atlantic Dairy Management Conference, held Feb. 24-25 at the Radisson Penn Harris conference center in Camp Hill.

The conference is a cooperative venture between Monsanto Dairy Business, Purina Mills Inc., Pa. Farm Bureau, Land O' Lakes Inc., and seven universities — Penn State University, University of Pennsylvania, Rutgers University, University of Delaware, University of Maryland, Virginia Tech University, and West Virginia University.

Speakers' topics ranged from

business considerations when increasing the operational size of a business, to environmental concerns for dairying, and the feeding and health care of dairy animals.

An 140-page compilation of presentations, including speaker biographies, was made available to those who attended the event. For the most part, the speakers closely followed the printed version of their presentations. However, certain speakers, such as Tomsche, provided additional information, opinions and anecdotal information that gave the material a perspective and emphasis impossible to garner from the printed version.

The Mid-Atlantic Dairy Conference arose out of a need for a higher-level intensity educational program by the state's dairy production community, in addition to the highly regarded, but less technical, traditional Extension educational programs.

The Mid-Atlantic Dairy Conference provides a forum for receiving continuing education of research-based information and practical business experience discoveries.

Tomsche's presentation was included in a time block dedicated to information management and

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Walter Wurster, left, retired Chester County agent, receives the Clyde S. Robinson leadership award from Ed Kulp at the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania DHIA. Given for overall achievement and contribution to the dairy producer industry, the Robinson award is the highest honor given by the state association.

Pennsylvania DHIA Holds Annual Meeting

JUDY PATTON
Union Co. Correspondent

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — The Pennsylvania DHIA presented herd management awards to its top members in the state, as well as the Clyde Robison Award for service at its recent annual awards banquet in State College.

The herd management awards for highest production went to the top three herds in each breed, including mixed breed, goats and Red & White Holsteins, as well as the herd with the lowest average somatic cell count for 1998

Top overall managers were Karl and Daniel Brandt of Lebanon County, who milk 100 Holsteins three times a day and raise feed on 100 acres.

The breed winners were Holsteins (1) Karl & Daniel Brandt, Lebanon County, (2) Carl A Farms, Inc., Schuylkill County, and (3) Melvin & Judy Peachey Mifflin County.

Guernseys (1) John & J E Marchezak, Washington County, (2) Richard O Smith, Bucks County' and (3) Roger A Garber, Franklin County.

Jerseys (1) Ralame Jersey Farm, Bedford County, (2)

Rodney Swope, Fulton County, and (3-tie) Maran-atha Farm, Somerset County, and Jem J Jerseys, Cumberland County.

Mixed Breed (1) Calvin Hostetter, York County, (2) Glen & Dawn Anderson York County and (3-tie) Rebecca Darling, Lackawanna County, and Dane Yeager, Mercer County.

Ayrshires (1) Dean E Varner Huntingdon County, (2) Dale & Patte Mayfair, Lebanon County, and (3) Don Gable Chester County.

Brown Swiss One Hill Farm - Moyer, Berks County, (2) Dean &

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