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Pennsylvania Lamb and Wool Queen Ashley Shollenberger, right, and her sister Amber are in the midst of lambing season, which sometimes requires bottle-feeding lambs. Turn to page B2 for a story on the Shollenberger family and about the good and the "baaad" of sheep promotion. Photo by Lou Ann Good

Glickman Announces Milk Marketing Order Reforms

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman on Wednesday announced a major overhaul of the 60-year-old federal milk marketing order program.

According to Glickman, the overhaul will significantly streamline and improve the nation's wholesale milk pricing system.

"These reforms will help make sure that America's dairy farmers receive a fair price and that American consumers continue to enjoy an abundant, affordable supply of milk," said Glickman. "Our changes will also simplify the wholesale milk pricing system, making it more market-oriented and more equitable."

The milk marketing order program is designed to ensure the fair marketing and pricing of milk. It is not a dairy support

program. The current dairy support program expires on Dec. 31, 1999, unless Congress chooses to extend it.

Milk marketing orders classify milk by use, set minimum prices that handlers must pay for each class of milk, and provide for paying average prices to all dairy farmers who supply a particular region.

Though the program does not set retail prices, these reforms are expected to reduce the average price of drinking milk by about two cents per gallon.

The announced reforms include:

- Consolidating the current 31 federal milk marketing orders into 11.
- Replacing the basic formula price (BFP), which is currently used to establish

(Turn to Page A42)

Decision To Try Soybeans Instead Garners State Trophy For E-town Producer

ANDY ANDREWS

Lancaster Farming Staff
ELIZABETHTOWN (Lancaster Co.) — Some blame bad plant population and low yields on the weather. Could you also "blame" the weather for a prize-winning soybean yield?

Because of wet conditions late in the spring last year, Jim Hershey, who grows about 50 acres of full-season and another 65 acres of double-crop soybeans on his hog and broiler farm near Elizabethtown, decided field corn wouldn't do. The fields took a while to dry out enough to plant anything.

So instead of corn, Hershey opted for soybeans on some of his best fields.

As a result of the decision, some of his better acres turned a state prize-winning yield last season. Hershey came in first place in the Pennsylvania Soybean Yield Contest sponsored by the Pennsylvania Soybean Promotion Board.

A member of the Pennsylvania Soybean Growers Association, Hershey attributes the award-winning yield to what turned out to be a good growing season after all.

"We had good growing conditions after it finally stopped raining

last spring," Hershey said. "I give the Lord credit for that."

Soybean yields towered to 80.2 bushels per acre using Pioneer STS 9421 at his farm. Those yields come from a 3-acre plot in a 20-acre field selected for the contest before the harvest date.

Overall the weather improved tremendously, resulting in corn yield checks of more than 200 bushels per acre on some spots, noted Hershey. This despite a drought year that affected yields tremendously throughout the region.

(Turn to Page A28)



As a result of the decision, some of his better acres turned a state prize-winning yield last season. Jim Hershey came in first place in the Pennsylvania Soybean Yield Contest sponsored by the Pennsylvania Soybean Promotion Board. Photo by Andy Andrews

Windy-Knoll-View Farm Exhibits Grand Champion

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The grand champion of last week's 46th Pennsylvania Holstein Association state spring show in Harrisburg was 7-year-old Windy-Knoll-View GDD Topaz, bred and owned by James and Nina Burdette of Windy-Knoll-View Holsteins in Mercersburg.

In making his selection, show judge Curtis Day of Shippensburg said he was going to depart from what others may consider to be his usual tendencies in cattle judging, and he selected Topaz, the first-place 125,000-pound-class cow.

(The 125,000-pound-class is a competitive class restricted to entry by only those cows that have documented production of at least that amount of milk in a lifetime. It is uncommon, but certainly not

unexpected, for a grand champion to be selected from an entry in that competitive class.)

The Pa. Holstein Association's spring state show at the state Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg started the registered Holstein showing season. There were 207 head checked in for the show, held March 26.

For the rest of the show season, a series of regional shows are to be held, culminating with the fall state show held in conjunction with the Pennsylvania All-American Dairy Show (PAADS), in Harrisburg.

The Burdettes won several awards last week. Not only did Windy-Knoll-View exhibit the grand champion, also the best owned and bred, but they received the premier breeder and premier

(Turn to Page A24)



The James and Nina Burdette family of Windy-Knoll-View Holsteins in Mercersburg win big at the state Holstein Association's 1999 Spring Show, receiving premier breeder and premier exhibitor awards, exhibiting the grand champion, and the open division junior and reserve junior champions. From the left, with the winning entry in the senior best three females competition class, Nina Burdette holds the premier breeder banner, Jim Burdette holds the halter of the grand champion, Emily Stuff holds the halter of her youth division reserve grand champion (a Windy-Knoll-View bred animal), and brothers Kyle and J. Justin Burdette exhibit one of their homebred cows and display the premier exhibitor banner.