

Progressive Dairymen's Cooperative Reports Good Year

TROY (Bradford Co.) — 1998 was a good year for members of Progressive Dairymen's Cooperative, according to a recent news release about the cooperative's recent annual meeting, at Edgewood Restaurant in Troy.

About 50 members and their families attended the banquet meeting to review the cooperative's business and outlook, elect directors, and recognize member achievements.

The board reorganized during a meeting that followed the annual meeting.

James Pastos, of United Ag Services, discussed the dairy situation, market conditions and his opinion on the future.

Progressive Dairymen's Cooperative is affiliated with United Ag Services, of Seneca Falls, N.Y. United provides management, accounting, quality control, and employee and producer payroll services for small to medium-sized cooperatives, as well as for individual farming operations.

Pastos said that dairy farmers have enjoyed the best prices ever, the past few months, and they would continue through the winter months. He said the price would drop in spring and summer.

He said that season price increases would occur in late summer and fall.

Overall, he said 1999 milk prices will average slightly below 1998 (record year) but not be as low as 1997.

He said he wanted to strongly urge members to catch up on paying their bills and to refrain from purchasing new equipment, until the outlook for dairy prices became more certain.

He also said that members should contact their state legislators and ask that they pass neces-

sary legislation for Pennsylvania to join the Northeast Interstate Dairy Compact.

Pastos also announced a new service program being offered by United Ag Services, DairyImpact.

DairyImpact is a group buying program designed to enable producers to purchase inputs at discount prices. Through the DairyImpact program, dairy farmers are expected to have an opportunity to improve their bottom line, he said.

Presiding at the meeting was Vice President Don Hamilton, who was taking over for Douglas Stewart unable to attend for medical reasons.

Also present were Tioga County Dairy Princess Christina Baker, and Bradford County Alternate Dairy Princess Malissa Croft. The dairy royalty served milk punch and cheese and talked about their roles promoting the use of milk and dairy products.

Sandy Hamilton offered a blessing.

In cooperative business, re-elected to serve as cooperative directors were Verna Talmon of Ulster, and Jeffrey Ammerman of Athens.

Elected to the board were Donald Chamberlain of Mansfield.

The minutes and financial statements were approved as read, and patronage was disbursed at the end of the meeting.

J.W. Welch, secretary/treasurer, offered his opinion on the benefits of membership in the cooperative.

He said that the cooperative has always paid a patronage dividend, ever since the co-op was founded 10 years ago. He also said that a study into premium programs of cooperatives showed that Progressive Dairymen's and sister co-op Scenic Mountain both enjoyed the

maximum net return, compared to other area cooperatives. At the same time, he said Progressive and Scenic co-ops do not require members to make equity payments.

Verna Talmon recommended that the cooperative send each member two copies of the premium program information — one to keep and one to pass on to a neighbor, in an effort to encourage quality producers to join the co-op.

In recognitions, Pastos presented the cooperative's top quality awards. First place were John and Bonnie Kendrick of Mainesburg, who received a plaque and a cash prize.

Others high quality producers recognized were Jeffrey Ammerman; Richard Carnright of Mainesburg; Victor and Verna Talmon; and Paul Allen of Granville Summit. Each received a

quality certificate and a cash prize.

During the reorganizational meeting, Douglas Stewart was re-elected president, Don Hamilton was re-elected vice president, and J.W. Welch was re-elected secretary/treasurer.

For more information about the cooperative call Douglas Stewart at (570) 744-2064, or J.W. Welch at (570) 549-7281.

Forage Helps Best Cows Produce More

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — Dairy cows already producing just over 110 pounds of milk per day increased production by an average of 11.5 pounds of milk when fed FullTime™ forage in a Michigan State University (MSU) study. Dry-matter intake increased an average 5.8 pounds per day for the high-producing cows.

"The more milk the cow is capable of producing in the first place, the higher the response to FullTime forage," said Ed Nimitz, Cargill Hybrid Seeds FullTime forage product manager.

"Improvements in milk production, dry-matter intake, and body condition scores of high-producing dairy cows resulted from enhanced neutral detergent fiber (NDF) digestibility of the forage.

Evaluating the effect of NDF digestibility on dairy cow performance has proven difficult because it is hard to find two forages that differ only in that trait. But Michigan State University researchers succeed-

ed last year by comparing conventional corn silage and FullTime forage, both from Cargill Hybrid Seeds.

"Increasing dry-matter intake is especially important for cows in early lactation to prevent excessive loss of body condition and to increase peak milk yield," said Dr. Mike Allen, MSU extension forage specialist.

"Improved NDF digestibility does not necessarily increase the energy density of a cow's diet. It does reduce physical rumen fill and allows greater feed intake," Allen said.

The MSU trials involved 32 Holstein cows fed rations containing corn silage made from either a conventional Cargill corn hybrid or a FullTime forage hybrid identical to the control except for the gene affecting low-lignin content.

The two corn hybrids were planted in adjacent fields on the MSU campus research farm. Both hybrids were chopped at 30 percent dry matter, fermented, and stored in adjacent bunker silos.

The cows were grouped according to days in milk, body weight, milk yield, and body condition score. Each group of cows was assigned to one of the rations for 28 days after which the rations were switched between groups so that all cows were offered a ration containing each hybrid for a period of 28 days.

Tests showed the silage made from FullTime forage was 0.8 units lower in lignin than the conventional silage. Diets were formulated for 19.6 percent crude protein, 31 percent NDF, and a forage to concentrate ratio of 56 to 44 percent.



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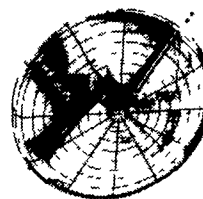
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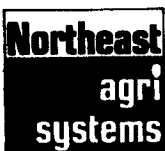
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| 48 Grill | BD | 541 | 1 | 22,100 | 18.6 | 20,900 | 17.1 |
| 36 Cone | BD | 890 | 1/2 | 12,640 | 20.8 | 11,960 | 19.0 |
| 48 Cone | BD | 546 | 1 | 25,200 | 23.3 | 23,800 | 21.0 |



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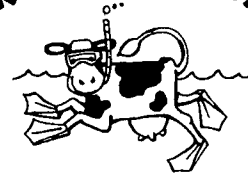
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