

Natural Dairy Expo To Praise Those Who Graze

MILLHEIM (Centre Co.) — A July 15 field day has been scheduled to be held at a Lancaster County dairy farm to showcase the certified organic dairy operation, as well as provide educational workshops on grazing and herd health.

Billed as the Natural Dairy Expo: Improving Profits and the Environment, it has been scheduled to be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Spring Wood Farm, near Kinzers.

There is to be no registration; anyone desiring to attend is

invited.

A lunch is to be made available. Cosponsored by farm owner Roman Stoltzfoos, a long-time advocate of the success and healthful aspects of certified organic farming and grazing, the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture, and several busines-

ses, the field day event is the first of the year at Stoltzfoos's Spring Wood Farm, located near Kinzers.

Business and related sponsors include Midwestern Bio-Ag, Agri-Dynamics, Pennsylvania Certified Organic, Dairy Network Partnership, and Acres USA.

Stoltzfoos said the event provides the opportunity to view a working grass farm, one that is totally organic.

According to Stoltzfoos, even if the farming practices he uses are not compatible with practices on another farm, attendees should be able to take something from the event.

"No two farms are alike," Stoltzfoos said. "You have to learn to make decisions based on your own circumstances, experiences, and the strengths and weaknesses of your farm."

He said that in his opinion, one problem with pasture walk events is that people who attend them attempt to duplicate the farming operation they've visited.

Stoltzfoos explained that very few things on a farm, or any other operations, can be copied exactly and work the same.

However, he said, such events can provide a wealth of new information and inspiration for ideas on how to apply concepts and practices and adapt them into a farming operation.

"Two heads are better than one," Stoltzfoos said, "even if one is a cabbage head."

On a serious note, he said that milk can be produced more cheaply than the current industry standard, and that it will become even

more important to do so in light of widespread agricultural commodity pricing problems.

He said it is becoming apparent that the entire crop production system of the Mid Western states is breaking down because of speculative planting of crops that are being overproduced and for most people, don't provide a return on investment.

He predicts that agriculture there will switch to low-cost dairying and that change will put even greater pressure on dairy farmers in the East to lower their costs of production.

Spring Wood Farm, owned and operated by Stoltzfoos, his wife Lucy, and other family members, has 280 acres in grass.

No corn is raised, grain is occasionally used for pasture reseeded.

They milk a mixed herd of 100 dairy cattle; about 30 percent Dutch Belted.

They also compost manure and have implemented a pasture irrigation program in conjunction with barnyard nutrient management practices.

The six educational workshops include: Economics of Dairy Grazing (to include actual financial data); Mineralized, Energized Forages; Healthy Soils; Health From the Hedgerow; Using Homeopathic Medicine for Prevention and Treatment in Dairy Cattle; Protecting Water Quality by Improving Barnyard Nutrient Management.

For directions or for more information call Kate Francis, PASA representatives, at (814) 349-9856

Global Soy Forum '99 Offers Diversity

URBANA, Ill. — Global Soy Forum '99, a worldwide salute to the soybean, is shaping up to be a milestone in food industry history.

Expected to draw 1,200 attendees, the Forum is rapidly luring international registrants. Farmers, dietitians, foreign secretaries of agriculture, and myriad scientists are expected to converge in Chicago for the Aug. 4-7 conference.

Event headliners include ABC News 20/20 correspondent John Stossel, who will discuss health issues and worldwide food production partnerships. Cesar Belloso, a large-scale Argentine farmer, will address soybean production in the Americas, and scientists from the United States, Brazil, and Canada will tackle the global dilemma of soybean disease management.

"Global Soy Forum offers a program that is unmatched in its diversity," said Mary Auth, director for Global Soy Forum '99. "At the same time, conferences comprising the Forum will allow everyone attending to delve into their area of expertise."

International audiences are responding with enthusiasm. To date, about 30 percent of registrants hail from outside the United States, Auth said. Among the most notable, Lianzheng Wang, representing China's Ministry of Agriculture; Dr. R.S. Paroda, secretary of the Indian Ministry of Agriculture, and Jorge Hector Larreche, head of INTA, the Argentine ag department's research arm.

Alberto Duque Portugal, presi-

dent of Brazil's EMBRAPA (Brazilian Corporation of Agricultural Research), will offer the unique perspective of a public-private research venture. Vice President Al Gore and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman have been invited to join these dignitaries.

"We've never before seen such a diverse and studied group of minds come together to discuss soybean research, markets and production," Auth said. "I think farmers will be amazed to witness firsthand the complexity of their industry and the reach of their crop."

The Forum's Midwest Soybean Conference will target those farmers, offering presentations on technology, production efficiency, marketing and global trade. Dr. Steve Sonka, director of the National Soybean Research Laboratory, will discuss future oil and protein demand, and site-specific management expert Harold Reetz will present Cyberfarm, an agriculture information management program.

In addition, nearly 600 scientists attending the Sixth World Soybean Research Conference will consider issues of soybean processing, utilization and crop improvement. Academia, feed formulators and livestock nutritionists will gather at the soy in animal nutrition portion of the Forum to study soybean protein's

role in livestock diets. And, a special, invitation-only food program will target health editors and dietitians, and feature Dr. Bob Arnot, NBC chief medical correspondent for Dateline and Today.

Global Soy Forum '99's diversity is rooted in the soybean crop's varied uses. The protein- and oil-rich soybean has countless applications in human food and animal feed, and in industries from plastics to fuel, adhesives, coatings and paints. An extensive exhibit hall will help represent this cornucopia of soybean products, Auth said.

Global Soy Forum '99 is being coordinated through the Soybean Research and Development Council and the National Soybean Research Laboratory at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Registration fees are \$395. A discounted registration rate is available for farmers at \$195. For registration information, write Global Soy Forum '99, 1101 W. Peabody, Room 165, Urbana, IL 61801, or call (217) 244-7384. Registrations are also being accepted on-line at www.gs99.uiuc.edu.

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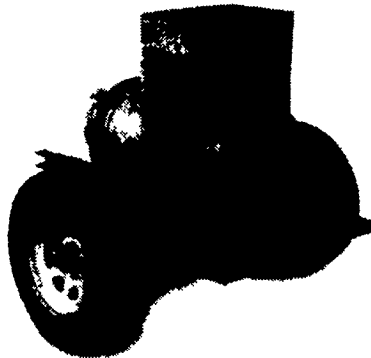
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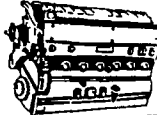
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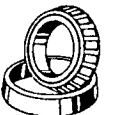
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