

ERIE (Erie Co.) — United States dairy farmers in August are to vote upon proposed changes to the federal milk marketing order system, and 26 educational programs are being offered throughout Pennsylvania beginning July 12 to help farmers make an educated vote.

According to several news releases sent out concerning the scheduled meeting series, Dr. Ken Bailey, Penn State University marketing and policy analyst, is to be the main speaker during the programs.

The meetings begin in Erie and Crawford counties on July 12, and according to George Wilcox, Penn State Extension dairy specialist for Erie County, the program is the same for all scheduled meetings.

These meetings should be considered very important. There has been so much across-the-board change in the foundations of the dairy industry, as well as many other distracting issues on the plate for dairy farmers, that some consider that farmers may not be adequately prepared to make a knowledgeable decision when asked to vote in August on the federal milk marketing order reform and change in federal dairy policy.

Under the 1996 Farm Bill, the U.S. secretary of agriculture was directed to reform the federal milk marketing system.

The legislation outlined specific parameters for a new system, but left the details of creating a fair and working system to the USDA.

Since 1996, there have been several federal efforts to ascertain dairy industry desires for a new program.

But consensus had not been discovered, although with the merging of regional dairy cooperatives in national cooperatives, a greater sense of consensus is being

promoted.

In the meantime, the USDA came up with several proposals and none has been found to have wide appeal.

The current policy and proposal upon which votes are to be taken in August, would reduce the number of federal milk marketing orders,

revise borders, change the formulations for calculating milk and milk component values, and farmers' pay.

In general, while USDA has promoted the final proposal as fair and equitable, it has been rejected by certain factions because it is

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## Day Brothers Are First Sibling DJM Winners

Day Brothers Are First Sibling DJM Finalists

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. — For the first time in the history of the Holstein USA breed organization, a pair of brothers are simultaneously winners of the organization's Distinguished Junior Member Award.

David and Matthew Day, sons of Curtis and Ann Day of Tri-Day Holsteins in rural Shippensburg, both were named winners and received the national honor at the Holstein USA convention, held recently in Boise Idaho.

The brothers were featured in *Lancaster Farming* just prior to the convention when it became apparent that, for the first time, two brothers had been selected as semi-finalists. They said at the time that winning this competition would be the "crown jewel" of Holstein achievements for them.

Both are Cornell University animal science students, and have been members of national champion dairy judging teams.

There were 12 semi-finalists considered for finalists. Six were selected as finalists.

Other winners include Kristin Myers, of New Windsor, Maryland; Julie Kelsey, of Canastota, New York; Amy Hagenow, of Reedsville, Wisconsin; and Matthew Dorshorst, of Junction City, Wisconsin.

For the national competition, the 12 semi-finalists submitted a detailed compilation of their junior activities and are interviewed by a panel of judges in the final selection process.

The 12 semi-finalists each received \$300 scholarships. The six finalists were awarded a renewed annula membership, and commemorative pins.

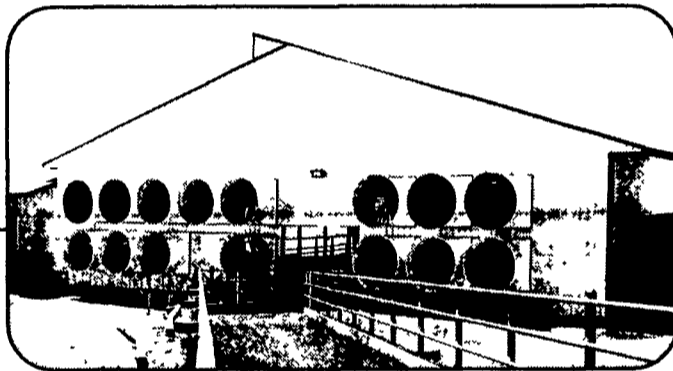
For more information about the Distinguished Junior Member Program, call Kelli Dunklee, program specialist, (800) 952-5200, extension 2124.



From the left, Matthew and David Day stand with one of their top Holsteins at their Shippensburg area farm. They have become the first pair of siblings to simultaneously be awarded the Holstein USA national Distinguished Junior Member Award.

# CONGRATULATIONS & THANKS

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