

## Post World Dairy Expo Ultrasound Short Course

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. — In the interest of maintaining show ring ethics Holstein Association USA Inc. is co-sponsoring an ultrasound short course Oct. 5 in Madison, Wisconsin.

Certain forms of alterations to the udders of show cattle have been accurately detected through the use of ultrasound technology.

In an effort to make ultrasound testing more accessible in the show ring the Holstein Association, along with the University of Wisconsin, will host this post World Dairy Expo short course.

Dr. Steve Trostle and Dr. Robert T. O'Brien of the University of Wisconsin are organizing this event and have already received more than 16

registration forms from foreign individuals. Attendance is expected to reach 30 or 40 people.

The program will consist of lectures covering the principles of ultrasound, ultrasound of the udder, detection of abnormalities in the udder, and ultrasound and computer equipment needs.

There will also be time dedicated to laboratory exercises in which participants will gain experience in using the ultrasound machine and acquiring computerized images from cattle with abnormalities.

For more information about the short course contact Judy Dvorak, continuing education coordinator for the Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine at 608-263-6626 before Sept.

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people who produce our food and fiber.

Gov. Ridge was the first state governor to declare a drought emergency. And he said he hopes some good will come out of the drought situation—especially a new consciousness of this precious natural resource that must not be wasted. No one appreciates water more than the agricultural community.

Farmers in most of the state will have at least a 35 percent crop loss, and many counties will have 70 to 80 percent crop losses.

Ridge complimented the people who efficiently made national response to Pennsylvania's disaster relief request. But this program is predicated on low cost loans that simply put the farmer deeper in debt. Gov. Ridge said even

though farmers are self-reliant and do not normally accept grants from government, this time the situation merits such a response from the federal government.

"People don't realize, have no idea, how well they eat and how little they pay for it, because of our farmers' productivity," Gov. Ridge said. "We want the federal government to understand that agriculture now has a need for some help, and they should send back to us some of the tax money we have been sending to them for a long time."

U.S. Senator Rick Santorum agreed with Gov. Ridge. He is the first Pennsylvania member of the Senate Ag Committee since 1906. He said that since most of the ag committee members have traditionally been from the Midwest and Southeast, the disaster relief programs have been written

with those areas in mind. He said political people think of Pennsylvania in terms of coal and steel and do not know about the largeness of the agricultural industry in the state.

Santorum said he has worked to get livestock, specialty crops, and crop insurance programs into the current disaster relief bill. Direct cash assistance has gone to other farmers because of low prices that are generated by large surplus production. In the Northeast, many farmers have nothing to sell. So they have been hit with low yields, low prices, and low crop insurance coverage. The Senator said one help to drought situations is crop insurance and that's why he is working to get a good emergency assistance program in place so that a good crop insurance program will be available to farmers next year.

Penn State's President Graham Spanier said the welfare of farm and rural families is essential to the social and economic vitality of agriculture around the world and in Pennsylvania now and in the future. "Our society is changing rapidly, shaped by the information revolution, and the realities of life in the new marketplace and society," Pres. Spanier said "It is therefore imperative that land-grant universities like Penn State have a strong and effective outreach and cooperative extension system in order to fill our societal responsibilities and mission. We are deeply committed to enhancing these resources to the people of Pennsylvania in service to society."

Pres. Spanier said Ag Progress Days was a premier exhibition that proved Penn State's commitment to agriculture and its importance to the people of Pennsylvania.

### ALUMNI SOCIETY MEETS

The College of Agricultural Sciences Alumni Society met on Tuesday at a noon luncheon. Dean Robert Steele gave the college report and compared 1899 with 1999. At the turn of the last century, the university had 241 students that included 11 students in the agricultural sciences department. Today, 80,000 students are enrolled in Penn State University, and more than 3,000 students are majoring in agriculture. He said the number one interest area now is in the animal sciences.

Dean Steele said we leave this century with one of the best budgets we have ever had. There has been very strong support from advocates and the political sector. But in the future not all the money will come from Harrisburg. The federal government will continue with some support, but increasingly the university will rely on private funding through personal gifts and investments by Pennsylvania industry. He also reported that in the university's \$46 million fundraising campaign three-fourths of the target has been met.

Jeff Harding announced a mentoring program to match students with alumni in the field of their experience. Larry Campbell, alumni association president, reported that Penn State has 23,881 alumni, number one in the big 10, and sixth nationally.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

## New DFA venture building the future for nonrefrigerated dairy packaging

Dairy products that maintain freshness without refrigeration have been a dairy industry dream for years — some call it "the last great frontier in dairy." But now, a new processing and packaging development alliance promises to bring that dream to reality.

Dairy Farmers of America (DFA) and Netherlands-

based Stork Foods and Dairy Systems, Inc. have formed ASEP-TECH USA, LLC, a joint venture to develop high-tech processing and packaging systems that result in extended-shelf-life dairy products that don't require preservatives, high-temperature processing or refrigeration.

"The need for refrigera-

tion is a huge limiting factor for dairy products," explains Ed Tilley, DFA manager of business development. "Using aseptic processes, we can avoid preservatives or high temperatures that can alter the natural flavor of milk or other dairy foods. With new ASEP-TECH technologies we can develop products

that are 'shelf stable' — they won't spoil when kept at room temperature. As long as the package remains unopened, products will be as good as the day they were packaged for several months. Being able to transport and store dairy products without refrigeration opens tremendous new marketing opportunities."

Gary Hanman, DFA president and CEO, agrees: "ASEP-TECH positions dairy farmers at the forefront of promising new technologies and systems that are necessary to give us a competitive edge in the multibillion-dollar food and beverage industry."

"Stork brings world-class technologies, state-of-the-art equipment and advanced manufacturing experience to the joint venture. DFA brings a leading-edge research and development facility, strong product development expertise and more than 50 years of processing and packaging experience," Hanman explains. "Together, we will develop innovative processing practices and plastic packaging technology that will create new marketing opportunities for dairy farmers."

In addition to creating its own branded products, DFA will market ASEP-TECH services to the U.S. food and dairy industry. The pilot plant can be used for product development, short production runs, or processing a variety of extended-shelf-life and shelf-stable products for limited test markets.

ASEP-TECH will share facilities with the DFA Technology Center in Springfield, Mo. The combined facilities will also offer advanced product development and testing, analytical and taste-testing capabilities.

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opportunities and local services that are right for you. You'll hear what DFA membership can mean — better representation, local involvement and the support to be all you can be. Invest in a partnership that pays ... talk to your local DFA representative today.



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