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Lancaster Farming

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Officials Say DFA Small In Country, Big In City



Officials of Dairy Farmers of America met in four informational meetings with members this week. More than 800 dairy farmers attended. At the New Holland meeting, from left, are Herman Brubaker, board chairman, and Gary Hanman, president and CEO. Photo by Everett Newswanger, editor.

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Editor

NEW HOLLAND (Lancaster Co.) - To promote the idea of farmer power in the marketplace, officials of a national dairy cooperative conducted several Northeast information meetings this week to inform dairy farmers how they see the future of the dairy industry.

Herman Brubaker, board chairman of the Dairy Farmers of America (DFA) and an Ohio dairy farmer, told more than 300 dairy farm families at Yoder's Restaurant in New Holland that the criticism of DFA's size as too large is not true, since the

cooperative has incorporated local district delegates to bring the grass-roots opinion into the organization. And yet the cooperative is large enough to make some power plays in the national market. "This makes us small in the country and big in the city," Brubaker said.

Gary Hanman, DFA president and CEO, said the founders of the cooperative looked at the integration of beef, hogs, and poultry and concluded dairy farmers need to have some say in the marketplace if they are not to go the way of integration.

"Dairy farmers need to move up the marketing chain to get

closer to the consumer," Hanman said, "rather than have someone with a consumer franchise move down through the chain into production agriculture."

Government is getting out of our business and so to the extent we can put together enough buyers, we can have say in the marketplace. The free market system we talk about is fast coming to a close. We need a plate at the marketing table.

The marketing system under the new federal orders will not use BFP, but will use what is to be called Class 1 Price Mover. Under the new system the price

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More Than 700 Attend Lebanon Farm-City Banquet

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff

LEBANON (Lebanon Co.) — "This is the biggest Farm-City blast in Pennsylvania," said Secretary of Agriculture Samuel Hayes Jr.

More than 700 people attended the Lebanon Valley Farm-City Banquet, which brings town and farm communities together.

The Tuesday evening banquet at the Lebanon Valley Expo Center featured an antique tractor display, a Sheep to Shawl auction, entertainment by Palmyra High School Jazz Band, Century Farm and Century business awards, hefty door prizes, and an abundance of food.

Most outstanding were the entertaining accounts told by participants in the farm-city exchange and by Pennsylvania Ag Spokesperson Shirley Krall.

Two farmers and two business leaders shared their impressions of what it was like to swap jobs.

Farmer Linda Krall and Kim Moyer, controller for Butler Manufacturing, spent a day on the job with each other. Unfortunately Kim discovered that a farmer's day lasts a lot longer than she expected. Although Kim helped from 4:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., the Kralls were still busy working when she left.

Despite the fascination of plant operations and meetings, the exchange taught Linda that "I was born to be a dairy farmer."

"It was those little cubby holes that did it. I knew I could never sit cramped up in an office all day long. I'm used to wide open spaces," Linda said.

Linda and her husband Glen farm 112 acres, and milk 100 Holsteins.

Kim told of rounding up cows from the pasture while it was still dark.

"Linda gave me a flashlight to make sure I'd didn't hit the manure piles, but I did step in a few," Kim reported.

"I was determined to help with every chore on the farm," Kim said of her resolve. She climbed a 70-foot silo, helped tie and prep the cows before milking, scraped manure troughs, and drove the combine. But she drew her limit when the vet offered her a plastic glove to assist with determining a cow's pregnancy.

Kim said that her major observation about cows is "what goes in the front end comes out the back end."

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At the Lebanon Valley Farm-City Banquet, Lynn and Colleen Struphar receive the Century Farm Award from Secretary of Agriculture Samuel Hayes Jr. With 700 in attendance, the event is billed as the largest of its kind in Pennsylvania. Photo by Lou Ann Good.

National Young Farmers Convene In Hershey

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff

HERSHEY (Dauphin Co.) — Farmers from across the nation gathered in Hershey this week for the 33rd National Young Farmer Educational Institute (NYFEA).

While farming differs considerably throughout the states due to climate, soil, and commodities, Duane Nelson, president of the national organization, said that farmers share the same common concerns connected with water, environment, marketing, and prices.

Peanuts, tobacco, cotton, and livestock farmers can learn from one another, Nelson said. He runs a diversified operation on the family's 1,100-acre farm in Nebraska. In addition to raising 3,000 hogs, 750 head of cattle, and crop farming, Nelson sells steel buildings.

Nelson said that he encourages people to join because the organi-

zation is outstanding in providing leadership development, educational opportunities, community service projects, and ag issues sessions.

From Wednesday through today, the institute provided numerous educational sessions and tours of farms and agribusinesses in the area.

NYF is composed of chapters at local, state, and national levels. NYF mission is to promote the personal and professional growth of all people involved in agriculture. It's purpose is to develop leaders, inspire service, strengthen communities, and enhance the success

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At the Lancaster DHIA annual meeting, from left, are Jay Mylin, manager; Jenny Bowman, herd with lowest SCC of 58,000; and Steve Hershey, president. See story on page A26. Photo by Everett Newswanger, editor.

Grower & Marketer Features Packers

A special section in this issue of *Lancaster Farming* is our own *Grower & Marketer* section, devoted to the production of vegetables, fruits, the greenhouse industry, and small direct marketing enterprises in the East. The section focuses on the New Jersey Tomato Council and a Seabrook, N.J. company that packs vegetable items for a variety of customers in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast. Also, Nissley Vineyards, Bainbridge, is featured. Tim Elkner, Lancaster horticulture agent, provides tips on using drip irrigation. The section provides lots of information on upcoming conferences and special events, in addition to advertising messages.