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Mercer County Farmer Is Positive About Dairying

JAYNE SEBRIGHT
Lancaster Farming Staff
GROVE CITY (Mercer Co.)
 — John Ligo of Mercer County is excited to be a dairy farmer. He has good reason, too. Last year the Ligos made \$1,600 net

cash profit per cow on their 230-cow dairy farm.

“Dairy farming has been very, very good for us,” said Ligo. “When it has been good for so

long, there’s bound to be corrections, like the current low milk price.”

Ligo and his wife Judy started in the dairy business 10 years

ago because John saw dairying as a profitable way to run his own business and stay in agriculture. He hasn’t been disappointed yet.

“Ten years ago, we started with nothing and now ten years later we have a net worth of more than a million dollars,” said Ligo. “Our net worth has increased because of dairy farming.”

According to Ligo, the last four years have included three of the best years ever in dairying. He received an average of

\$15.31 per hundredweight last year. Producing milk at a cash cost of \$10.60 per hundredweight, that’s a profit of \$4.71 per hundredweight minus depreciation and interest.

He attributes his success as a dairy farmer to having a positive attitude. He also attributes his profitability to having a plan and a goal, then maintaining the commitment, intelligence, and drive to reach that goal.

“Keeping a positive attitude is the most important thing a

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PaDHIA & Dairy One Join Forces

STATE COLLEGE-(Centre Co.)-Pennsylvania Dairy Herd Improvement Association (PaDHIA) and Dairy One have entered into an agreement to create an international service company focused on delivering American style dairy herd management systems around the globe.

According to PaDHIA president Norm Hershey, the international venture will be called AgStar Technologies and be owned 50% by the two organizations.

“Both Pennsylvania DHIA and Dairy One are aware of the enormous opportunities for information services and technology in agriculture’s global marketplace,” Hershey said. “By joining forces, we can bring the expertise and resources of both organizations together to create an industry-leading service provider around the world.”

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Judy and John Ligo of Mercer County encounter both profit and pleasure with LiTerra Holstein and Highlands. They milk 230 cows and profited \$1,600 per cow in net cash last year. Photo supplied by the Ligo family

Knapers Named York Family Of The Year

JOYCE BUPP
York Co. correspondent
YORK (York Co.) — Farmland all around them has disappeared, changing into highways, housing developments, and strip malls. Still the Emerson and Ruth Knaper family has steadfastly continued to devote their land to crops and cows.

For their dedication to keeping the family farm in agricul-

ture, the Knapers have been cited as Farm Family of the Year by the York Chamber of Commerce.

James and Mirian Waltemyer’s John Deere equipment dealership in southern York County was named the Ag Business honoree during the Chamber’s annual Agribusiness Awards dinner, held January 20

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Pork Expo Next Wednesday

Next Wednesday, Feb. 9, the annual Keystone Pork Expo will be conducted at the Lebanon County Expo Center at the Lebanon Fairgrounds in North Cornwall. The program centers on the market outlook for producers and managing risk. For more about the expo, including a schedule of events, turn to page A25.

CLAs In Forages: Potential Milk Marketing Tactic?

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
GUTHRIESVILLE (Chester Co.) — Believe it or not, forages have some rather high levels of substances that could actually fight cancer.

Scientists are working out the details of exactly how a substance called conjugated linoleic acid (CLA), an 18-carbon fatty acid similar to what is found in vegetable oil, according to an article in the January Hay and Forage Grower, can actually prevent certain types of cancers. Meanwhile, it could be possible for grazing groups trying to “niche-market” milk items to put the fact that feeds containing CLAs are used in the production of milk.

“This is a big issue, a big health issue,” said Dr. Marvin Hall, Penn State forage specialist, late last week.

Hall spoke to about 60 crop producers and agri-industry representatives at the 2000 Chester County Crops Day at the East Brandywine Fire Hall in Guthriesville.

The more animals are fed forages, the higher amounts of CLA are present to fight cancer. The potential to use this source of information to market “CLA-forage” milk could be enormous.

Hall spoke about developments in forage research and new products on the horizon for producers.

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PDA Offers Crop Insurance Assistance To Farmers

JAYNE SEBRIGHT
Lancaster Farming Staff
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA)

has recently allocated 5.6 million dollars to aid farmers in purchasing crop insurance.

The \$5.6 million is in addition

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A second helping of snow that blew through southeast Pennsylvania on Sunday followed by significant winds left farmers such as George Spahr of East Berlin clearing out driveways all day Monday. George and his family have operated a 235-acre dairy farm for the last 41 years. The farm is owned by the family of George Kennan, who was the ambassador to Russia during the Truman Administration. Photo by Jayne Sebright