

Maryland Holstein Members Honored At Annual Banquet

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GRANTSVILLE, Md. — The Garrett County Holstein Club recently hosted the annual Maryland Holstein Convention banquet. During the banquet, outstanding members and junior members were recognized.

More than 300 members and guests gathered into the Salisbury, Pa., firehall for the banquet, which was themed "Mooving Into The New Moolennium With Holsteins." Sharon Mast and Martha Bender coordinated the banquet for the annual convention.

During the meeting, the club recognized first and second placed 4-H dairy judging teams. The first place team attended the national competition in Louisville. The members of that team were Brett Haines, Josh Sanders, Jeff Sutton, and Amanda Valentine, with coach Lee Majeskie and assistant coach Anne Davis.

The second place team was Tommy Smith, Jill Torene, Gary Brauning, and Justin Watt. The 4-H Dairy Bowl Team was also recognized. Those members included Mary Archer, Ryan Downey, Erin Shank, and Michael Spurrier. The team coach was Mark Varner, with Terrie Shank serving as as-

sistant coach. Scholarship recipients were also honored during the evening. Arthur and Peggy Johnson presented the scholarships to Amy Iager, Jessica Fritz, Sarah Bedgar, and Kristin Myers.

Recipients of the Junior, Intermediate, and Senior Awards for Distinguished Junior Members were also recognized during the banquet. Amy Iager and Barbara Schenning were named Distinguished Junior Members for the club.

As part of the program, junior member Kelly Burrier delivered the winning speech in the Intermediate Holstein Speaking Contest. Jacob Leach gave the winning speech in the Junior division. Junior production awards were also presented at the meeting.

Morris Jones, a retired farmer from South Carolina, was the guest speaker. Gary Yoder of McHenry, Md., was the toastmaster. After the awards presentation, Denny Remburg of Jefferson, Md., hosted a fun auction.

A beautiful Holstein Cow quilt made by Naomi Yoder was on display during the evening to encourage people to attend the sale auction held on Saturday. Half of the proceeds from the quilt will be donated to a local man battling cancer.



Maryland Senior Winners included Bret Haines, Katherine Herbst, Amy Iager, Barbara Schenning, Gary Brauning, and Justin Watt.



Maryland Intermediate Winners recognized at banquet included Ryan Haines, Tracy Webb, Emily Yeiser, Jennifer Herbst, and Ben Callimer.



Maryland Junior Winners recognized at the banquet included from left (front) Scott Davis, Nathan Rhoderick, Curtis Rhoderick, Amy Yeiser, (back) Allyson Lethbridge, Hannah Smith, Ben Yoash, and Laurel Moore.



Junior Production Award recipients are pictured with the award sponsors. From left are (front) Matt Debaugh, Jacob Pieper, Davis Schwartzbeck, (back) Carl Bender, Marlin Hoff, Jaimi Savage, Gus Schwartzbeck, Jason Myers, and Douglas King.

Wenger Rallies To Bury The Death Tax

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — A measure that would cut Pennsylvania's inheritance tax by \$100 million was approved by the state Senate Finance Committee, according to state Sen. Noah Wenger (R-36), who supports the reductions outlined in Senate Bill 6.

Wenger also attended a Harrisburg rally, joining farmers and other interested citizens in an effort to encourage legislators to agree to "bury the death tax."

"Our commonwealth has the second-highest inheritance tax rates in the nation, which drives older people to retire in other states and forces descendants to sell family farms and family-owned businesses," Wenger said. "This bill represents the first step toward phasing out the tax, as many other states have already done."

Senate Bill 6 would save inheritors nearly \$100 million through:

- A 1 percent cut for direct descendants, from 6 percent to 5 percent.

- A reduction of the tax from 15 percent to 12 percent for non-linear descendants.

- The elimination of the tax for assets transferred from a child to a parent. Under the proposal, should a parent survive a child, trust, college, or other savings funds would not be subject to the inheritance tax.

Wenger said Pennsylvania was the first state to institute an inheritance tax and is second only to Connecticut in reliance on revenue taken from survivors. Meanwhile, other states, including New York and Louisiana, are taking steps to eliminate inheritance taxes.

"The tax is particularly burdensome to farmers who want to pass the family business down through the generations," Wenger said. "Too often, those who inherit the operation are forced to sell off their assets to meet their tax bills."

Wenger noted that the high tax, by forcing individuals out of business, runs counter to progress made at the state level to promote the growth of small businesses, which are increasingly important job creators, and the success of agriculture, Pennsylvania's number one industry.

The senator added that Pennsylvania's death tax is a form of "triple taxation" because assets left to heirs have already been taxed as wages and as profit from investment.

"It's time to take the first step toward eliminating this tax in the interest of fairness to survivors, to promote a healthy economy, and to encourage the transfer of family farms from generation to generation," Wenger said.