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Poultry Industry Out In Force At Annual Fundraising Event

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Editor

HERSHEY (Dauphin Co.) — About 1,300 poultry producers and agribusiness friends gathered at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center Monday night to socialize, have a scrumptious chicken dinner, and hear the world-famous Oak Ridge Boys in concert. The

\$100-a-plate event brings together all aspects of the poultry industry in the largest annual fundraising effort of the PennAg Poultry Council.

Just last week, PennAg Industries had an open house for their new office location off Linglestown Road, northeast of Harrisburg. They moved from Ephrata

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\$1,600 Each To Scholarship Winners

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Could one high school senior be an up-and-coming "dog psychologist?"

Perhaps.

Greta Feeser, one of seven Lancaster County Farm and Home Foundation Scholarship winners, wants to understand animal behavior.

Greta, honored with a \$1,600 scholarship Tuesday evening, chose Juniata College. Greta said she would like to learn the "psychology of animals, and why they do what they do."

Greta, 18, daughter of Thomas and Diane Feeser, Lititz, was one of seven scholarship recipients announced Tuesday evening at the Farm and Home Center.

The Warwick senior joins fellow Warwick student Desiree Haneman, Lititz, and others as award recipients. Also honored each with a \$1,600 scholarship were Diana Erb, Lancaster; Russell Howard, Strasburg; Audrey Nissley, Washington Boro; Lynn

Ressler, Peach Bottom; and Ryan Wimer, Quarryville.

Greta has four years experience as a kennel assistant at the Lititz Veterinary Clinic. She credits career inspiration from Dr. Bill Whittaker at the clinic.

Greta plans to study under Juniata's pre-vet program. The college has wonderful communications regarding career placement, Greta said. "I felt a connection to the school."

Though she has worked mostly with pets, she is considering the small- and large-animal care field.

Regarding the "animal psychology" studies, she plans to continue to explore that area. If not part of the curriculum, she said she would pursue it as a "personal project."

Fellow student Desiree Haneman wants to pursue a career working, perhaps, as a caretaker in the Disneyworld Animal Kingdom in Florida helping with the African animals, she said.

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Grower & Marketer, a section dedicated to the eastern vegetable, fruit, nursery, and direct marketing industries, features information about strawberry field management. Ernie Mast, at right, cares for about 3-4 acres of strawberries near Morgantown with Jim Groff, strawberry field manager. A highlight of the section includes a photo plum pox infestation resource crucial to the fruit grower, information about the upcoming state horticulture tour, and marketing news. Photo by Andy Andrews

Now Receiving Dairy Recipe Contest Entries

Lancaster Farming salutes dairy farmers by conducting an annual dairy recipe contest during June Dairy Month. Dairy recipes are needed for appetizers, soups, breads, entrees, vegetables, desserts, beverages, snacks, and salads. Entries are eligible for a drawing for many different types of prizes. See page A26 for contest rules.

Berks County Dairy Farmer Crossbreeds To Prepare For Changes

JAYNE SEBRIGHT
Lancaster Farming Staff

LIMEKILN (Berks Co.) — Dairy farmer Marlin Stoltzfus feels changes coming in the wind.

"What I see coming is more component pricing," said Stoltzfus, who milks 100 cows in Berks County. "We have to learn to make milk with forage, not grain, and we are going to need to breed for a different kind of cow."

Stoltzfus is experimenting with Normandy dairy cattle, a relatively new breed in the United States that originated from France. First arriving in the states as a beef breed, the Normandy dairy breed touts longevity, a wide heart girth, and high milk component levels.

"We've been talking dairyness for so long in the U.S. that what we're getting is frailness," said Stoltzfus. "It all starts in front of the cow. If you don't have room in the chest for a big heart, lungs, and digestive system, you're going to have problems."

Stoltzfus, who farms with his wife Ruth, took over the third-generation farm from his father. Their dairy herd includes Holsteins, Guernsey, Jerseys, and one Brown Swiss bull. Marlin and Ruth have two sons — Erick, who is a veterinary student at the University of Minnesota, and Dean, who is a machinist.

"When my father farmed, we had all Guernsey," said Stoltzfus. "But then our dairy complained because they were paying us for 6 percent test milk, so we added some Holsteins to bring the component levels down."

Now the Stoltzfus' herd is 90

percent Holsteins. "We're crossbreeding a few of our Holsteins with the Normandy breed to increase the longevity and hardiness of our herd."

According to Stoltzfus, a cow should be thought of as an athlete. "She has to pump a lot of

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Lancaster County Farm and Home Foundation Scholarship winners were, front from left, Diana Erb, Desiree Haneman, and Audrey Nissley. Back from left, Greta Feeser, Russell Howard, Lynn Ressler, and Ryan Wimer.



Marlin and Ruth Stoltzfus of Berks County are experimenting with Normandy dairy cattle, a new breed to the United States. Now owning three Normandy-Holstein crossbred calves, Stoltzfus has already seen some benefits of the breed. Photo by Jayne Sebright