

It's June — National Dairy Month.

Celebrating June as Dairy Month was a marketing tool originated years ago by the industry at a time when milk production reached its peak in springtime, when cows traditionally turned out on pasture cranked up their output to yearly production peaks. Thus, June became the month to salute the bountiful conversion of green grass to white milk.

But it takes someone other than a calf to harvest that output if consumers want to get their markets, instead of everyone having a do-it-yourself cow tied to the back porch. (Think of modern municipal ordinances dealing with THAT issue!) Thus, we have dairy farmers, less than 100,000 of us rapidly-disappearing entities, left in this United States, keeping the cows on our back porches-so-to speak-for everyone else.

So, in honor of our peers, we offer the following salutes, some shared by our DHIA technician, Joanne Lucabaugh, some via young dairy friend Raechel Kilgore who pulled them off her e-mail, and a few from yours truly.

You might be a dairy farmer if your backyard ends at an electric fence, you know the price of milk by the hundredweight, but not by the gallon, your kids sandbox is made from an old tractor tire, you have three pairs of rubber boots and two pair are for same foot, or the medicine cabinet in your house has a can of Bag Balm in it.

You might be a dairy farmer if you've ever used baling wire to attach a license plate to your truck, gotten an award for fat-and been proud of it, had to shower in the back yard with the

garden hose before your wife would let you in the house, your idea of a power lunch is a sandwich on the tractor, or you refer to farms by who owned them 50 years ago.

You might be a dairy farmer if you have animals living in facilities more expensive than your house, your idea of carpentry includes a chainsaw, a neighborhood watch is someone calling to tell you that your heifers are out roaming the countryside, over 50 percent of your clothing advertises co-ops, feed, seed, semen or fertilizer suppliers, or your wife agrees to celebrate Mother's Day after the corn is planted and the haylage all harvested.

You might be a dairy farmer if you've been cited by the police for a cluttered dashboard, your idea of mass transit is moving your cows from the barn to the pasture, you have more than a dozen cats, manure is a dinner-table subject at your house, you know to listen to the weather forecast before selecting your wardrobe for the day.

You might be a dairy farmer if you have more photos of your cows than of your kids, you can tell the difference between the odor of a skunk and that of a cow lot, your idea of overnight delivery is pulling a calf at 2 a.m., you know that cow pies are not made with beef, you can tell those lights are a farmer working late in the field, know who it is, what they're doing, and that isn't a UFO.

You might be a dairy farmer if your prayers include intercessions for cows and crops, you know the difference between field corn and sweet corn while it's still on the stalk, you can remember the name of every cow

# the Signature FFA of Success

**Cedar Crest**  
Recently the Cedar Crest FFA participated in Pennsylvania's Eastern Region Career Development Events. The CDEs were held at the Manheim Fairgrounds. FFA chapters from as far as Philadelphia and Chester counties participated in the

events.

The CDEs included agronomy, agricultural business management, aquatic resources, poultry, wildlife, ag sales, meats, floriculture, and small gas engines. More than 500 FFA members participated in the events.

The Cedar Crest placings are as follows: (reg. Regional; co. Lebanon County).

In Floriculture, Michelle Zimmerman placed 20th reg. and 5th co.; Ashely Fessler placed 27th reg. and 8th co.

Mike Sensenig and Jason Shirk were the first placed team in the Small Gas Engines competition. Jason Shirk also placed first individually, and Mike Sensenig placed fourth. Richard Roof and Dave ledger were the fourth placed team. Individually, Roof placed second and Ledger placed fourth.

Chet Brubaker placed first in both the county and region in the Agronomy contest. Joel Krall placed third in the county and fifth regionally.

In Agriculture Business Management, Tim Gettle placed second in the county and sixth in the region.

Jonathan Reilly placed first in the county and ninth regionally in the Aquatic Resources contest. Amanda Waltermeyer placed second co. and 13th reg.

in the barn but the names of your grandchildren suddenly elude you, you can fix anything with baling twine, duct tape or a piece of electrical wire.

And, finally, a few of my own: You know you're a dairy farmer if bottles of frozen colostrum are stored between the hamburger and string beans in your freezer, your car is ten years old but there's a new mixer-wagon (haybine or forage harvester or silage truck, or whatever) sitting in the machine shed, you have missed a wedding, graduation, birthday party, and other important events because a cow was calving, had milk fever, got stuck in a gate or had emergency DA (twisted stomach) surgery, or have gone for an evening drive with your spouse to check the alfalfa and move field equipment.

So celebrate a little in honor of Dairy Month: Top your strawberries and ice cream with real whipped cream!

Jeremy Balsbaugh placed third co. and 15th reg. Josh Lutz placed fourth co. and 20th reg. Thomas Perry placed fifth co. and 21st reg. Dan Houtz placed sixth co. and 25th reg.

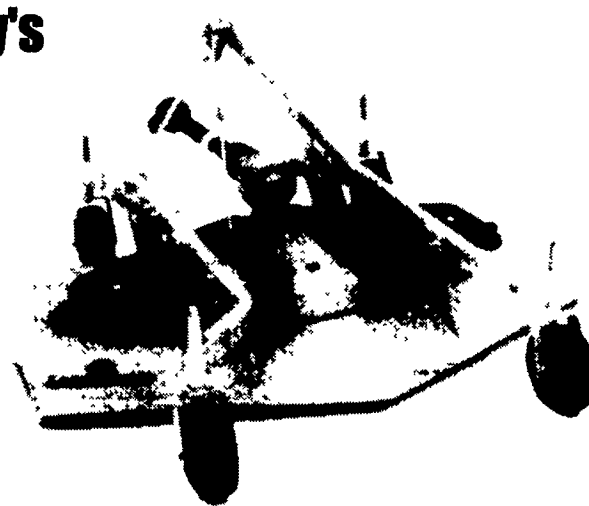
In Horse Judging, Erik Rheinheimer placed sixth in the county and 26th in the region. Heather Hawkins placed seventh co. and 34th reg. LeAnn Smith placed 10th co. and 43rd reg. Kendra Reist placed 47th reg., with Amber Frank placing 60th reg., Ashley Thurecht placing 63rd reg. and Kristen Stokes placing 65th reg.

In the Meats division, Nate Artz placed first in the county and 16th in the region. Beth Kreider placed fourth in the county and 20th in the region. Daniel Eberly placed fifth in co. and 21st in reg. Jason Zimmerman placed sixth co. and 22nd in reg. Billie Jo Atkins placed eighth in co. and 25th in reg. Gretchen Artz placed ninth in co. and 28th reg.

For Wildlife, Douglas Betz placed first in the county and 15th in the region. Amanda Hefelfinger placed second co. and 16th reg. Brad Bucher placed third co. and 25th reg. Eddie Wise placed fourth co. and 26th reg. Sarah Krall placed eighth in co. and 34th in reg. Chad Weaber placed 10th in co. and 43rd in reg. Andrew Gettler placed 11th in co. and 45th in reg. Diana Frey placed 17th co. and 61st in reg. Emily Doll placed 20th in co. and 69th in reg.

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