

Youth Conference Promotes Personal Development, Community Service

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Even though school is out, summer can still be a time for learning and development.

This summer, more than 420 teens from around Ohio will gather on the Columbus campus of Ohio State University to participate in leadership, citizenship, and educational activities during the 84th Ohio 4-H Youth Expo.

The annual conference, which takes place June 14-16, lets 4-H'ers focus on an area of interest, participate in a related service project, and learn strategies for initiating similar activities at home.

The service-learning component of Youth Expo was introduced two years ago and, based on the response of 4-H'ers and the community, will continue this year, said Allen Auck, an Ohio State University Extension associate for 4-H youth development who is coordinating the program.

On Thursday, June 15, the 4-H'ers will participate in small group, all-day, hands-on work-

shops on topics such as clowning, history, and pet therapy. The next day, the same groups will perform community services that incorporate the materials from Thursday's workshops. They will clown for patients at local hospitals; clean, repair and work with materials at the Ohio Historical Society Museum and Ohio Village; and take pets to visit residents at a Columbus-area retirement village.

"4-H has always valued giving something back to the community," Auck said. "Youth Expo will help give teen leaders the tools they need to implement more formal community service projects in their hometowns."

Conference delegates also will tour Ohio State's campus, experience college life by staying in student dorms, and take part in a variety of recreational and social events. Any youth ages 14 to 19 and in 4-H can attend the summer youth conference. For information on the conference, teens can contact their local extension office.



From left, Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Samuel Hayes Jr., Dairy Marketing Services Chief Executive Officer Rick Smith, Dairylea President Clyde Rutherford, and DFA Northeast Council Chairman Lewis Gardner discuss issues important to agriculture at a recent joint Dairylea/DFA legislative reception held at the State Capitol in Harrisburg.

Dairylea/DFA Hold Legislative Breakfast

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Dairylea Cooperative Inc. and Dairy Farmers of America (DFA) recently held a joint legislative breakfast in Harrisburg, Pa. The event provided an opportunity for members of the two Cooperatives to meet with state-level legislators and officials to discuss issues that are

important to agriculture.

More than 100 legislators, government officials and aides interacted with the dairy farmers at the reception held in the East Wing of the Capitol.

During the breakfast, Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Samuel Hayes Jr. met with Dairylea President Clyde Rutherford, DFA Northeast Council Chairman Lewis Gardner and Dairy Marketing Services Chief Executive Officer Rick Smith.

The meeting with Secretary Hayes focused on environmental issues and how to provide assistance to dairy farmers dealing with the new federal Concentrated Animal Feeding Opera-

tions (CAFOs) regulations. Additionally, they discussed the current low milk pricing cycle and strategies that could be explored to help enhance financial returns to farmers in Pennsylvania.

Dairylea Cooperative is an agricultural service organization, cooperatively owned by 2,700 Northeast dairy farmers. Dairy Farmers of America is a dairy marketing cooperative with 24,000 dairy farmer members in 45 states. In 1999, the two cooperatives formed Dairy Marketing Services, LLC to jointly manage their milk-marketing operations, as well as assist with other common activities.

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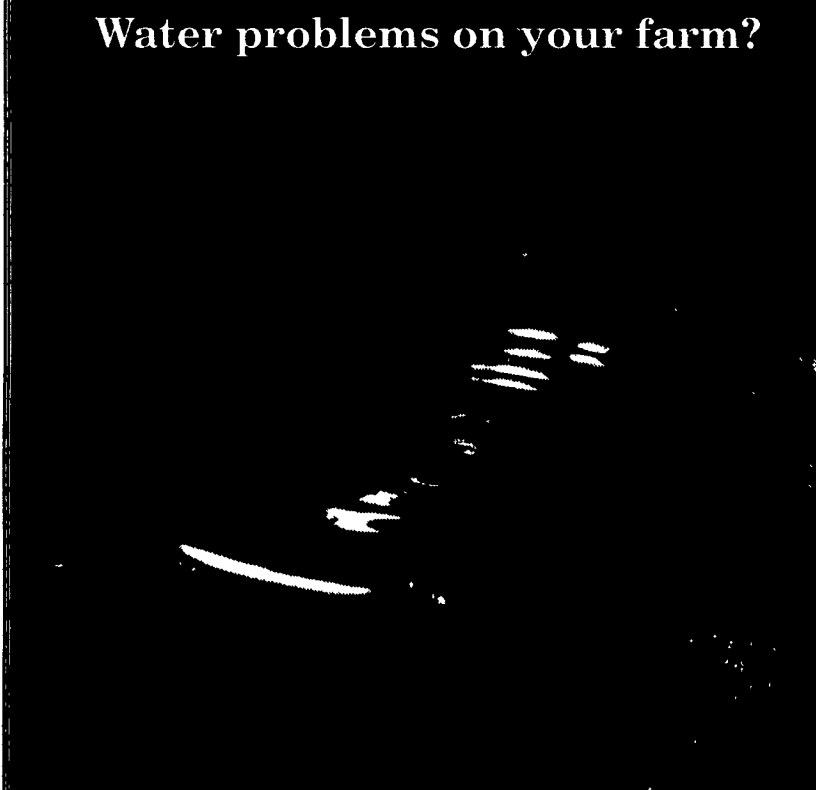


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