

Pennsylvania Hosts Convention

(Continued from Page A1)

for the convention. Next year Vermont will host the convention.

"People come to visit each other and compare notes on management practices," said Dean Daubert, McElhattan, president of the Pennsylvania Brown Swiss Association.

Heilinger Swiss
Rolling hills, well-kept
farmhouses, and hearty stalks of

corn provided a showcase for Pennsylvania farmland as convention participants toured three Brown Swiss farms on Thursday.

Bruce, Laura, and their daughter Emily, 2, established Heilinger Farm two years ago when the couple moved from Newmanstown, New Jersey.

Besides their own cattle they house cattle for Mike Kunkle, Jonestown, and Bill and Cindy Warner, Frederick, Maryland.

In addition to the herd the couple raises corn, alfalfa, and soybeans on 300 acres. The Heilinger herd, made up of about 50 homebred Brown Swiss and 50 Holsteins, has a 23,500 pound rolling herd average.

Not only economics but also disposition make the Brown Swiss a favorite of the Heilingers.

"The Swiss have personality," said Laura. "They're calmer and more easy-going. I don't have to worry about Emily around them, that's why we put mostly Swiss on the ends. They also keep the protein and fat levels up."

"Norm," the Supreme Champion of Pennsylvania Farm Show, and her sister "Nadia" were honorable mention all-American produce of dam. "Roseanne" was first in the state for milk production in 1999.

Little Hill Farm

Guests traveled to Little Hill Farm to tour the family operation of the Hills and Shueys.

Jim and Billie sold the farm to children Rich and Terry and Terry's husband Kevin Shuey as of January 1, 2000. Since Jim's father also owned Swiss, this sale marked three generations of dairying with Swiss for the family.

As with the Heilingers, development pressure forced Jim and Billie to relocate to Pennsylvania in 1987.

(Turn to Page A27)



Jan Harding, Clarion, executive director for the Pennsylvania dairy princess and promotion services enjoys the banquet with Becky Kilgore, Airville, Heidi Miller, Harrisburg, and Holly Miller, Harrisburg.

Brown Swiss Convention Banquet

MICHELLE RANCK
Lancaster Farming Staff

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) Approximately 225 people attended the Pennsylvania Showcase Banquet during the convention. Robert Rugaber served as the master of ceremonies.

Dean Daubert, president of the Pennsylvania Brown Swiss Association and co-chair of the national convention, welcomed the group.

Don Trimble, co-chair of the banquet committee gave the invocation and Lori Connelly,

Pennsylvania State Dairy Princess, gave the milk toast.

After the meal six young women competed in the national youth ambassador contest. Entertainment and dancing followed the meal.



Several dairy princesses and ambassadors came to Harrisburg to show their support of the Brown Swiss breed. (left to right) Heidi Miller, Harrisburg; Becky Kilgore, Airville; Liz Smith, Ambassador, Denver; Sarah VanOrden, ambassador, Catskill, New York; Lori Connelly, PA State Dairy Princess, State College; Holly Miller, Harrisburg; Amy Shanks, Garden Prairie, Ill.

The display in the background celebrates 44 years of grassroots promotion by the dairy princesses. According to information on the display the dairy princess program is designed to increase dairy product sales and improve farm/city understanding. Responsibilities of the young women include news articles, radio spots, farm tours, parades, non-farm speeches, and store and mall promotions.



Billie, Jim, and Rich Hill (top row), along with Kevin and Terry Shuey and their children, Kyle, 4, and Allison, 2, operate Little Hill Farm. According to Billie Hill the whole operation, beginning with construction of the silos, was built in 1979.



Lebanon Country Dairy Princess Sarah Krall (left), and Jessica Bross, Dairy Maid from Myerstown, pass out the famous "milk punch" during the tour.



A regular practice in Switzerland, braiding and tying up the tails keeps the cows' tails cleaner. Here Mark and Sue Mapes of Mifflinburg investigate the technique. "It's nice not getting hit with wet tails," said Terry. "This is the first time we've washed the tails since January."