

Pa. Junior Holstein Convention Feb. 2-4

WEST MIDDLESEX (Mercer Co.) — Have you ordered your tickets yet?

The Pennsylvania Junior Holstein Association northwest district welcomes all junior members to the 2001 Pennsylvania Junior Holstein Convention, Feb. 2-4 here at the Radisson Hotel.

Friday activities will include the annual meeting of the Penn-

sylvanian Junior Holstein Association along with the mixer complete with a DJ for a dance and a few special surprises and activities. There will also be plenty of food and drink for everyone to enjoy while they renew old acquaintances and meet some new friends from around the state.

Saturday is packed full of contests and activities that begin

with dairy bowl and speech contests. There will also be an extemporaneous speaking contest this year with sign-up at the convention and speeches given on Saturday.

Juniors are encouraged to get their entries in for both of these state contests. There will be an opportunity to learn more about DHIA and how it can benefit your dairy operation.

The association will also be offering the chance for juniors to go ice skating on Saturday afternoon. There will be a tour to a large cheese plant where moz-

zarella cheese is produced. Following the Saturday evening meal, the association members will hear the winning speeches presented along with a dance and some special surprises.

Sunday morning will conclude with the awards breakfast, where juniors are recognized for their achievements over the past year.

There will be a well-stocked dairy bar along with commercial exhibitors who are available to share their industry knowledge with the juniors. There will also be the photo contest, display

contest, and plenty of opportunity to visit with friends from across the state.

The Radisson Hotel has an indoor swimming pool and an arcade room along with all the other amenities of a conference hotel. Make sure to get you hotel and ticket order information in by Jan. 12.

For contest entry forms or additional information on Pennsylvania Junior Holstein activities, contact Pennsylvania Holstein Association, 839 Benner Pike, State College, PA 16801, (814) 234-0364.

2001 PA Junior Holstein Convention Ticket Order Form

Friday, February 2, 2001

Mixer, Dance and Food No _____ at \$ 6 00 = \$ _____

Saturday, February 3, 2001

Tour to Cheese Plant No _____ at N/C

Ice Skating No _____ at \$ 3 00 = \$ _____

Meal & Speech Presentations No _____ at \$ 13 00 = \$ _____

Sunday, February 4, 2001

Awards Breakfast and Program No _____ at \$ 10 00 = \$ _____

Convention T-Shirts No _____ at \$ 10 00 = \$ _____

_____small _____medium

_____large _____x-large _____xx large Order Total \$ _____

Ticket orders must be received by Friday, January 12, 2001

Name(s) _____ Age(s) _____

List other names and ages on back of this paper

Address _____

County _____

Phone(_____) _____

Adult _____

Chaperone _____

Send Ticket Order Form with Check Payable to "2001 PA Junior Holstein Convention
Jodi Caldwell
22496 Gravel Run Road
Saegertown, PA 16433
Phone (814) 398-2476

For Lodging Reservations Contact Radisson Hotel, RT 18 & 1-80 Exit 1-N
West Middlesex, PA 16159
(724) 528-2501

*Indicate you are with PA Junior Holstein Convention
Room Reservations are due by January 12, 2001
Lodging Rates \$ 72 00 plus tax (Single, Double, Triple, Quad)

Junior Convention Rules

- 1) All juniors must be in their rooms by 12 30 a m on Friday and 1 30 a m on Saturday
- 2) Doors will be open at all times when mixed company is in the room
- 3) ABSOLUTELY NO DRUGS OR ALCOHOL WILL BE USED OR CONSUMED
- 4) Upon registration, each junior will name a chaperone that is responsible for his or her action If you do not name one, there will be chaperones at the hotel
- 5) Anyone found destroying hotel property will be charged for damages
- 6) The Convention Committee will not be responsible for anyone leaving the Convention facilities without permission of the Convention Chaperone
- 7) Any violators of these rules will not be eligible for any state awards for a period of one year, and they will be sent home at the parents' cost

Parent's Signature _____

Emergency Phone Number(_____) _____

Junior's Signature(s) _____

List other juniors below

Name(s) _____ Age(s) _____

Pennsylvania Holstein Association Will Conduct Convention

WEST MIDDLESEX (Mercer Co.) — Join the fun in 2001 as the Northwest District offers a mid winter break from the dairy farming routine at the Radisson Hotel.

The Radisson is located in West Middlesex, Pa. just off of I-80 at exit 1-N.

In addition to the board of directors meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 21, the host committee offers an afternoon tour to Control Molding and Plastics Company and the Wendell August Forge Company. The convention banquet will be Wednesday evening.

The Hall of Fame winners

and Distinguished Young Holstein Breeder winner will be announced. After dinner, the Millcreek Ramblers will provide entertainment and dancing will follow.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, Feb. 22. Members will have a chance to meet Bud Leckie, President of the National Association.

The Ladies Program this year will begin at 12:15 p.m. to allow the ladies to attend the morning session of the annual meeting and participate in the ladies program.

The ladies' luncheon and program will be held at the Oak

Tree Country Club with entertainment.

The convention sale will highlight Thursday evening. Consignments are currently being sought. If you are interested in consigning, please contact either Mike Weimer at (814) 498-2047 or Bill Allen at (717) 944-1374.

Friday, Feb. 23 will be the awards breakfast. Award recipients will be honored and Walter Shide will speak.

The convention will also include a fully stocked dairy bar and many commercial exhibits that will highlight the new technology available to the dairy industry.

Maximize Milk Checks Without Expanding Dairy Operation

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Dairy farmers can increase their milk checks without expanding their herd. It just takes a little more management and some shopping around, said Tom Noyes, dairy agent at the Wayne County office of Ohio State University Extension.

There is probably an opportunity for some producers to gain at least an additional \$1.50 per hundred pounds of milk produced, Noyes said.

And, with milk prices more than \$1 per hundred pounds lower than normal, maximizing the milk check is more important now than ever, he said. The current All Milk Price — the base price of milk plus additions for butterfat, protein and other solids content — is about \$12.50 per hundredweight. The average All Milk Price received by Ohio dairy farmers over the past 10 years is \$13.76 per hundredweight.

"You can affect what your milk price is through management on the farm and looking at different marketing alternatives," he said. "You could gain \$1 per hundredweight just by altering what you do on your farm."

Improving milk quality by lowering the somatic cell count and controlling other factors could make a noticeable difference. Somatic cells are animal body cells present at low levels in normal milk. High levels of these cells in milk — caused by things such as mastitis infection, udder injuries, stress, poor milking procedures and cow age — indicate abnormal, reduced-quality milk. Milk with a high somatic cell count has a shorter shelf life, yields less cheese and may have poor flavor, Noyes said.

In Federal Order 33, which includes Ohio, the milk price pro-

ducers receive is adjusted up or down by how much their milk's somatic cell count is below or above 350,000 cells per milliliter. Milk below 350,000 cells per milliliter gets a premium, while milk above 350,000 is discounted.

"In Federal Order 33, about 53 percent of the milk produced has a somatic cell count between 201,000 and 400,000 cells per milliliter," Noyes said. "That means more than half of the milk produced is discounted or receives only a small bonus. Another 25 percent of the milk has counts worse than 400,000. So there is definitely room for improvement in gaining take home dollars through reducing somatic cell counts."

The premium amounts vary by market and can range from 10 cents per hundredweight to \$1 per hundredweight. Additional bonuses often are paid for producing premium quality milk for consecutive months, he said. All quality programs also are based on milk being free of antibiotics, added water, low sediment and off flavors.

Based on the milk supply, some buyers may offer over order premiums. These are bonuses above the market price for milk within a federal order offered simply to secure milk for a buyer. They are not based on quality. The more competition there is for milk, the higher these bonuses may be, Noyes said. They often range from zero to 30 cents per hundredweight and vary by month.

Dairy farmers can adjust their production to take advantage of seasonal bonuses. These bonuses often occur in the fall when children are going back to school and demand for milk increases. The problem is, many producers often get their highest milk production in the spring, when

grass and hay supplies flourish, but the school year is almost over. So finding ways to increase fall production could be beneficial, he said.

However, with expanding dairy herds, milk production across the United States is becoming more consistent throughout the year. So, seasonal bonuses have diminished and may not be around much longer, Noyes said.

Bonuses also exist for milk with high levels of protein. Some buyers are paying 10 cents per pound of protein in milk. Having a high protein dairy herd can add significantly to the bottom line, Noyes said.

"You have to shop around for the market that best suits your milk," he said. "And once the buyer who pays the best premium is found, producers have to be willing to change where they ship their milk, so they can get the best price possible. Ohio producers often are loyal and are hesitant to shift buyers. But, the decision should depend on the price."

In the long run, taking advantage of premium prices could really pay off. For a 100-cow Holstein operation producing 20,000-pounds of milk per cow per year, an extra \$1.50 per hundred pounds of milk produced would garner \$30,000 of additional income per year.

By adjusting management practices, producers could probably obtain these bonuses with little or no added production costs, Noyes said. Just make sure barns are well ventilated, stalls are well bedded, the operation is clean, and proper milking techniques are followed.

"There is obviously additional money to be made by producing high quality milk and shopping around to find the market that will be to your advantage," he said.