



## Penn State Cooperative Extension Capitol Region Dairy Team

### DAIRY FEEDING ALTERNATIVES IN TIMES OF DROUGHT

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For some dairy producers, a prime concern is forage supply. Weeks ago was the time to evaluate your supply and start making plans.

On some farms, 10-20 percent more forage is fed than is necessary to maintain animals in a reasonably normal state. This is good management and economical in a normal year.

However, times are not normal now and some farms will need to reduce forage intakes to minimum levels for cows in milk and for young stock.

Do not limit normal forage intakes for dry cows and springing heifers. Use of forage substitutes and high-fiber concentrates will be an option for some. Relatively speaking, the price outlook for corn, soybeans, and by-product ingredients should remain favorable. The crops in the "bread-basket" of this country are looking good. Some feed concerns will be offering a complete feed that will meet essentially all nutrient needs. Be sure to work closely with your nutritionist.

If buying hay, this is a year to compare local and regional prices with western hay prices. Most western hay is sold with a guaranteed relative feed value (RFV). RFV is a measurement of the overall feeding value of a specific forage. Most western hay has a higher RFV than local hay. Several producers have found western hay to be an enhancement to their feeding program even in a normal year. Avoid paying unreasonably high prices for forage.

Pricing corn silage will be a challenge. In a drought year, corn silage is generally higher in protein and lower in energy than during a normal year. As a rule of thumb, drought corn silage generally has a feed value 90-92 percent of normal corn silage. Some of you may have neighbors with corn planted specifically for grain production. Some of that corn will never make an ear. Now is the time to talk to them if you need forage. Maybe these same neighbors also have soybeans that will not make a crop but could be utilized for silage.

Elevated nitrate levels are a concern in some of our crops this season. Nitrate related problems can be kept to a minimum if common sense is used. Introduce suspected for-



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ages gradually — don't feed suspected feeds to hungry animals, utilize suspected material for silage rather than green-chop, don't harvest suspected crops for 3-5 days after a significant rain, and make sure other forages and concentrates are fed prior to or mixed with suspected material. Also, be wary of silo gas.

Be sure to look at the animal side of the equation. Maybe some of you need to cull harder. You may maintain or increase milk production by culling hard and providing what forage is available to the more efficient cows remaining. Some will need to reduce young stock numbers.

A year like this gives a person time to reflect somewhat on the cropping end of the dairy business. Here are some questions — and I am sure you can think of others:

Is all the land I plant in corn suitable for corn? With the advances that have been made with barley yields, should I take a closer look at this crop? As a risk management practice, should I regularly include some summer-annual grasses such as sudangrass, sorghum-sudan hybrids, or sorghum into my forage program? Should I do more double-cropping and if so with what?

If you want more details on some of the topics discussed here, Penn State dairy specialists put together several handouts you may find helpful. "Dairy Feeding Alternatives Following Adverse Weather" (DSE 88-31) and "Drought-Related Issues In Dairy Cattle Nutrition" (DAS 99-5) are two that you may find helpful. Publication DAS 97-17 was referenced in a previous column article. Request a copy of these publications from your county extension office or give me a call at (717) 263-9226.

# Reversal Of Champion 'Fate' At Lebanon Holstein Show

ANDY ANDREWS  
Editor

LEBANON (Lebanon Co.) — Lebanon Holstein Show late last week here at the Lebanon Area Fair was a simple reversal of fate for both grand champion and reserve.

Last year's champions, Scott and Karen Nolt, Lebanon, became reserve this year, and vice versa, with Adam and Lisa Sonnen, Richland, taking champion this year.

Lisa said the champion was a 7-year-old 100,000-pound class winner, Stardust. Stardust, from a Canadian sire, has calved five times. This was the Sonnen's fourth grand champion at the Lebanon Area Fair.

Reserve was a 6-year-old shown by Scott and Karen Nolt, Lebanon.

Following is a list of show placings.

#### OPEN HOLSTEIN SHOW

Spring heifer calf: 1. P. Dustin Homing. 2. Timothy Vail. 3. Chad Horst.

Winter heifer calf: 1. Nathan Heim. 2. Timothy Vail. 3. Kelly Homing.

Fall heifer calf: 1. Nathan Paul Beiler. 2. Holly Miller. 3. Adam J. and Lisa A. Sonnen.

Summer yearling heifer: 1. Sonnen Holsteins. 2. Adam J. and Lisa A. Sonnen. 3. Dale B. and Kynel D. Himmelberger.

Spring yearling heifer: 1. John Donmoyer. 2. Paul Miller. 3. Amanda Miller.

Winter yearling: 1. Adam J. and Lisa A. Sonnen. 2. Harrison Miller. 3. Hannah Bomgardner.

Fall yearling heifer: 1. Holly Miller. 2. Jay D. Bomgardner. 3. Bradley Hoover.

Junior best three females: 1. Adam Sonnen. 2. Loving Meadows. 3. Himmel Valley.

Dry cow, four years and under: 1. Kevin J. Bomgardner. 2. Chanelle Horst. 3. Rachael Krall.

Dry cow, five years and over: 1. Dale Hostetter. 2. Holly Miller. 3. Paul Homing.

Junior 2-year-old: 1. Reid Hoover. 2. Adam J. and Lisa A. Sonnen. 3. P. Dustin Homing.

Best udder for class: 1. Reid Hoover. 2. Adam J. and Lisa A. Sonnen.

Senior 2-year-old cow: 1. Kelly Reist. 2. Adam J. and Lisa A. Sonnen. 3. Timothy Vail.

Best udder for class: 1. Kelly Reist. 2. Amanda Martin.

Junior 3-year-old cow: 1. Adam J. and Lisa A. Sonnen. 2. Crystal Brubaker. 3. Promise-Lane Farm.

Best udder for class: 1. Promise-Lane Farm. 2. Crystal Brubaker.

Senior 3-year-old cow: 1. Promise-Lane Farm. 2. Adam J. and Lisa A. Sonnen. 3. Sarah Krall.

Best udder for class: 1. Promise-Lane Farm. 2. Justin Troutman.

4-year-old cow: 1. Klinedell Farms. 2. Adam J. and Lisa A. Sonnen. 3. Promise-Lane Farm.

Best udder for class: 1. Klinedell Farms. 2. Adam J. and Lisa A. Sonnen.

5-year-old cow: 1. Dale Hostetter. 2. Bradley Hoover. 3. P. Dustin Homing.

Best udder for class: 1. Dale Hostetter. 2. Brad Hoover.

Six years and over: 1. Scott and Karen Nolt. 2. Dale Hostetter. 3. P. Dustin Homing.

Best udder for class: 1. Scott and Karen Nolt. 2. Jared Zimmerman.

100,000 pound cow: 1. Adam J. and Lisa A. Sonnen. 2. Scott and Karen Nolt.

Best udder for class: 1. Scott and Karen Nolt. 2. Adam J. and Lisa A. Sonnen.

Senior best three females: 1. Adam J.



Lisa Sonnen exhibited grand champion of the Lebanon Fair Holstein Show.



Lebanon Area Fair Holstein Show reserve champion went to Scott and Karen Nolt. Karen holds Katelyn, 1.5 years.

and Lisa A. Sonnen. 2. Dale Hostetter. 3. Loving Meadows.

Dairy herd: 1. Adam J. and Lisa A. Sonnen. 2. Scott and Karen Nolt. 3. Loving Meadows.

Produce of dam: 1. Tumpike View. 2. Loving Meadows. 3. Amy Moyer.

Dam and daughter: 1. Scott and Karen Nolt. 2. Jesse Bomgardner. 3. Timothy Vail.

**CHAMPIONS**  
Junior champion: Nathan Heim.  
Reserve junior champion: P. Dustin Homing.

Senior champion: Adam J. and Lisa A. Sonnen.

Reserve senior champion: Scott and Karen Nolt.

Grand champion: Adam J. and Lisa A. Sonnen.

Reserve grand champion: Scott and Karen Nolt.

Best udder: Scott and Karen Nolt.  
Best bred and owned: Adam J. and Lisa A. Sonnen.

## All-American Dairy Show Sept. 22-27

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The 38th All-American Dairy Show is scheduled Sept. 22-27 here at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex.

Some of the nation's top dairy cattle will travel to Harrisburg to compete in regional and national dairy breed shows throughout the week. The "All-American" will also host the Pennsylvania Holstein Fall Championship Show and the Eastern Elite Holstein Sale, providing opportunities for Holstein breeders to purchase some of Pennsylvania's best of

the breed to take home to their herds. Selection of the supreme champion will be Sept. 27 following the Holstein and Jersey shows.

Festivities will begin Saturday evening, Sept. 22, with the Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Pageant.

Several exciting youth activities will be featured at the All-American. The youth showmanship contest will begin at 1 p.m. Sept. 23, and will close with the senior youth fitting contest. Sunday evening's activities will conclude with the Junior Dairy Show Olympics.

The youth will also have the opportunity to participate in numerous competitive events in the

2001 All-American. 4-H and FFA members from across the state will compete in the Pennsylvania Junior Dairy Show on Monday, Sept. 24.

The Invitational Youth Dairy Cattle Judging contest will host dairy judging teams from across North America competing in 4-H, FFA, and collegiate divisions. The contest will culminate with an awards banquet Monday evening.

For more information on the All-American Dairy Show, contact the Farm Show Complex at (717) 787-2905 or visit the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's homepage at [www.pda.state.pa.us](http://www.pda.state.pa.us).

A new booklet will appear in the Sept. 22 issue, just in time for the Pennsylvania All-American Dairy Show in Harrisburg.



Lancaster Farming's Dairy Plus is scheduled to include dairy industry news and information never seen before in the paper, including expanded DHIA reports, information about dairy herd expansion, nontraditional dairy marketing, and a calendar of events strictly for dairy producers.

Need farm equipment? Check out the classifieds in Section C!