

# Dairy Producers Receive Stakeholders' Pacesetters Award

ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.) — Jobo Holstein Farms, L.L.C., Gettysburg, Adams County, and Tom Craig, Murmac Farms, Bellefonte, Centre County, were recognized by the Pennsylvania Dairy Stakeholders with the organization's prestigious Pacesetter Award at the Ag Progress Days dairy producer luncheon.

The two dairy operations are the third and fourth recipients of the award, which was created last year to recognize individuals and organizations who have contributed significantly to creating a positive image of the Pennsylvania dairy industry. Up to three Pacesetter Awards can be presented annually to nominees who excel in the following criteria: visionary, innovative, progressive, excellence of performance, and unique.

"Both Murmac Farms and Jobo Farms have pursued their visions to develop progressive dairy businesses and become leaders in our industry," said Ralph Heffner, chair of the Pacesetter Award committee. "They truly exemplify the characteristics of a Pacesetter and are extremely worthy candidates of this award."

Jobo Holstein Farms, L.L.C., is a partnership between John and Bonnie Hess, their children Josie Riser and John Hess, and their son-in-law Dale Brown. They milk 500 cows, farm 900 acres, and provide custom forage har-

vesting and TMR blends for area producers. The Hesses have been recognized as Master Farmers, conservationists and leaders both in the industry and in the local community.

Since purchasing the farm in 1970, John and Bonnie have farmed with a vision of building a business to include the next generation. They've worked with dairy consultants and other experts to expand the herd and operation. They've adapted new technology and practices to build a productive and progressive operation.

Last year their vision became a reality when they formed the partnership with Josie, John and Dale. John and Bonnie share a passion for farming and agriculture, and they've passed on that passion to all five of their children. The five children and their spouses work in some part of the agriculture industry.

The Hesses also share their passion for farming with other dairy producers and with young people from all over the world. Along with hosting tours and educational meetings for fellow dairy producers, the Hesses have hosted international exchange students as interns on their farm. Each year they invite more than 200 local elementary students to tour their farm. The Hesses have also welcomed local 4-H members who don't have homes for their dairy animals to keep their animals at Jobo Farms.

Tom Craig also shares his passion for agriculture and farming with others. He got his start in the dairy industry in 1979 as a herdsman at Murmac Farms and took over the operation in 1980. Through the help of a mentor and business partner and the advice of experts both within and outside the dairy industry, Craig has grown his dairy to 800 milking cows. The operation is now positioned to provide business opportunity for his and his wife Sherry's family.

What sets Craig apart from other dairy producers is his enthusiasm for the dairy industry and his willingness to share his insight, experience, successes and failures with others. Craig has provided Penn Staters with internships and job opportunities on his farm. He has also hosted classes and informal discussions with students. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania and has played a key role in developing that organization.

According to Lisa Holden, a dairy professor from Penn State who nominated him, "Craig sets the pace for the dairy industry and provides the encouragement for others to follow him."

Craig has created a very positive and business-like image of dairying on his farm. He uses an outside advisory team and has developed comprehensive protocol for his employees to follow.

When he decided to hire Hispanic workers on his farm, he provided his family and existing employees with Spanish classes and his new Hispanic employees with English lessons. Craig is truly a visionary and progressive thinker, and he has developed himself as a leader for his organization and the whole industry to follow.

Both Craig and the Hess family were presented a gold-plated clock commemorating the Pacesetter Award during the Ag Progress Days luncheon. According

to Heffner, the award was created as a way to recognize the dynamic leadership responsible for creating a strong and rewarding future for the Pennsylvania dairy industry.

The Pennsylvania Dairy Stakeholders will recognize up to three recipients throughout the year, so qualified nominations can continue to be submitted to the board of directors for consideration. To receive an application, contact Alan Bair, facilitator, Pennsylvania Dairy Stakeholders, at (717) 948-6328 or nab4@psu.edu.

## Metzler Receives Service Award

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Lancaster Mennonite High School agricultural science teacher Lehman Metzler recently received the Years of Service Recognition Award for serving the agricultural education profession for 30 years.

The recognition, sponsored by the Pennsylvania FFA Foundation, was given as part of the Pa. Association of Agricultural Educators Conference conducted at Penn State University this summer in conjunction with the Pa. Governor's Institute for Agricultural Science Careers.

Metzler also recently received the Youth Adviser Award for "exemplary leadership and service" to the National Institute on Cooperative Education (NICE) Youth Scholar Program. This summer he served as a youth adviser during NICE's 73rd annual conference, conducted in Atlanta, Ga.

Metzler, of Willow Street, is in his 22nd year of teaching at Lancaster Mennonite High School. At LMH he is co-adviser, with teacher Christopher Ochs, of the Hans Herr FFA Chapter, which has enjoyed numerous successes since its inception in 1992.

During the 72nd annual Pa. FFA Convention mid-June at Pennsylvania State University's main campus, the Hans Herr Chapter's outgoing president, Paul Hostetter, was named president of the Pennsylvania FFA Association. Paul's classmate, Jeremy Ranck, was named eastern region vice president of the state



Lehman Metzler

FFA Association. Both were graduated from LMH in June.

In addition, the school's Agribusiness Management Team took first place and received \$1,000 to compete in the National FFA Convention at Louisville, Ky., in October. The Ag Mechanics and Dairy Foods teams took home second place awards, both receiving \$450 to compete nationally in the Northeast Regional Career Development Event at the BIG E (New England Expo), Springfield, Mass., in September.

Prior to his position at LMH, Metzler served nine years in Central and South America in Adult Ag Extension Education.

## Deadline Approaching On All-American Dairy Show

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Agriculture Secretary Sam Hayes reminded all dairy breeders that the entry deadline for the 2001 All-American Dairy Show is approaching.

"If anyone has not entered their prize-winning cow into the All-American, I would like to encourage them to do so. This is another banner year at the All-American. I hope to see everyone in Harrisburg in September," said Hayes.

All entries for the 2001 All-American Dairy Show need to be postmarked by Sept. 5 for the second entry deadline and sent to the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex.

The All-American Dairy Show

continues to exemplify its mission of having the best dairy genetics on display. The dairy cattle that will be on display in Harrisburg have traveled from across the nation, several having received national recognition in milk production, type quality, and dairy genetics.

To recognize the high quality of cattle on display at the All-American, the show will pay some of the highest premiums in the nation.

Building on the investment from the year 2000 with the increases in the premiums for the champions of each breed receiving \$1,000 and the supreme champion being paid \$3,000, this year the All-American will in-

crease the premiums paid to the reserve grand champion, intermediate champion, and junior champion of each breed to \$200. To recognize a herd's dairy type excellence, the Exhibitor Herd Class winner will receive \$500.

Breeding productive cattle takes time and commitment from breeders. To recognize their efforts, the All-American will increase premiums for the premier breeder award to \$500 and the junior and senior best bred and owned of each breed to \$200.

The 38th Annual All-American Dairy Show will be Sept. 22-27 at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg. For more information or a premium list, contact the All-American Dairy Show at (717) 787-2905.

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