

Dairy Stakeholders Review Issues, Honor Producers At Conference

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industry representatives Wednesday evening at the Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association annual awards banquet. The banquet was in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Dairy Stakeholders Conference at the Grantville Holiday Inn.

Even soy is a product to compete with, Schriver noted. "Whoever thought you'd have to worry about soy as a beverage?" he said. These products cater to one constant — change.

DFA has about 37,000 dairy producers/members, Schriver noted, in 45 states. They market 44 billion pounds of milk annually.

Schriver's "soapbox," he noted, 10 years ago was product packaging. The focus remains — except this time with new emphasis on product partnerships.

One such partnership is with Pepsi on long shelf-life milk products such as Frappuccino, also in partnership with Starbucks Coffee.

Even using milk to make biodegradable containers using lactose can be one way to market milk.

Change is inevitable. Schriver spoke about how some dairy managers couldn't comprehend moving to 100 or even 500 cows.

Now, one DFA-member dairy has to manage 40 tankers a day.

Working together for some people to direct the course of an industry, can be "a real challenge," Schriver said. We have to work on "our attitude," and not just think "I am just a farmer," he said. "You are in the dairy business. It's a way of life and a business."

Awards were presented during the Wednesday evening banquet. Jay Houser, Penn Dell Farm, was honored with the Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association 2002 Charles E. Cowan Memorial Award. The award is presented to a dairy producer who has demonstrated superior

management capabilities and provided outstanding leadership qualities with the dairy industry.

Penn Dell consists of 287 acres and 150 Holsteins. The herd of 75 milking cows, on its most recent DHIA test, had a production average of more than 29,000 pounds milk, 1,200 pounds of fat, and 875 pounds of protein. Houser has bred and developed more than 160 cows that have lifetime production totals above 100,000 pounds of milk. Thirty have exceeded 200,000 pounds.

The farm has had 30 home-bred cows scored Excellent in the Holstein breed classification program. Stating with a score of 101 in 1964, the herd now has a Breed Age Average (BAA) score of 108.

Houser, who took over management of the family farm in 1963, has received the Holstein Progressive Breeders Award for each of the past 29 years. The herd has also received the association's Progressive Genetics Award each of the 11 years since it was created in the early 1990s. More than 30 young herd sires have gone into the progeny testing programs of a number of AI units.

Houser has been director and officer of the Centre County Holstein Club, member of the national association since 1957, and member of the county DHIA and local AI unit since 1963. He recently served as president of the Pennsylvania Holstein Association and was named, in 1998, to the Pennsylvania Holstein Hall of Fame.

Houser noted the importance of his family, and the "unity of family on the dairy — you can't do it without unity."

The Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association 2002 Extension Award was presented to Arlyn (Jud) Heinrichs, who grew up on a small Holstein farm in Sullivan County, N.Y. Heinrichs obtained his undergraduate degree in animal science from Cornell

in 1977 and earned his master's and doctorate degree in dairy science from Ohio State.

Heinrichs was appointed to the faculty of Penn State in 1982 as assistant professor, associate professor in 1988, and to professor in 1994. His work has centered on the nutrition and management of dairy heifers and the proper management of forages for dairy cattle.

Heinrichs has conducted numerous applied research studies on calf and heifer management. His strong interest in dairy forage quality led to his being a co-inventor of the Penn State Forage and TMR particle size separator. This device is an important tool for modifying management practices in feeding dairy cattle.

Heinrichs' recent work has focused on the housing needs and the nutrient requirements of dairy heifers that will allow them to calve at or before 24 months of age with adequate body weight and optimal mammary development.

Recipient of the Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association 2002 Distinguished Dairy Women Award is Rita Kennedy of Valencia.

In 1977 she was the first woman in its 68-year history to be elected president of the Butler County Cooperative Extension. Between 1975-1989, she served three terms on the board and finished her second term as president.

Kennedy has served on the board of the All-American Dairy show since 1992, chaired the advisory committee, and serves as vice president of the show. Her dedication and service has led to the improvement and growth of the All-American Dairy Show, the largest dairy show in the country. She received the All-American Dairy Show Image Award.

Kennedy is a member of the National Brown Swiss Association and was elected as a national director to its board in 2000. She served on the board of directors of the Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association from 1993-2000, where she was elected vice president from 1998-2000. Kennedy was named to the National Dairy Board in 1999. She is National Dairy



State 4-H Dairy Judging Team members were honored at the Stakeholders Conference banquet Wednesday evening. From left, Jake Hushon, Raechel Kilgore, Amy Kulick, and Katie Harwick. Photo by Andy Andrews, editor

Board secretary.

The Kennedy home farm has a 90-cow milking herd. Rita's oldest son has taken over management of the dairy operation that she and her husband, Jim,

operated since 1962.

More information from the meeting of the Pennsylvania Dairy Stakeholders will be included in a future issue of *Lancaster Farming*.

Meat Goat Producers Conference Scheduled

HONESDALE (Wayne Co.) — Penn State Cooperative Extension in the Northeast Region is sponsoring a regional meat goat producers conference on Sat., Jan. 26, 2002, in the Scranton area. This conference is intended for meat goat producers and those interested in investigating meat goat production as an alternative farm enterprise.

Conference topics include: Getting Started in Meat Goat Production, Nutritional Needs of Meat Goats, Meat Goats on Pasture, Goat Herd Health, and Meat Goat Marketing.

Featured speakers include Tattiana Stanton, Sheep and Goat Extension Association, Cornell University; Dr. Robert Van Saun, Extension Veterinarian, Penn State University; and Dr. Bob Herr, meat goat owner and broker; and Mark Toda, NE PA PENNTAP program. Conference attendees will also receive an in-

formational packet on meat goat production.

The conference will be conducted at the Iron Skillet Restaurant in the Petro Shopping Center near Scranton (exit 178B off I 81). The cost of the program is \$12 per person which includes lunch.

To register, send your name, address, phone number, and number attending along with a check for \$12 per person to Meat Goat Program, Penn State Cooperative Extension, 925 Court Street, Honesdale, PA 18431. Checks should be payable to "Extension Special Account." The registration deadline is January 22. You can also register by calling Dave Messersmith at the Penn State Cooperative Extension office in Wayne County at (570) 253-5970, ext. 239.

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