

Teleconference Addresses Farm Bill, Dairy Market

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Lancaster Farming Staff

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Producers and industry representatives tuned in to a teleconference last week to hear about the upcoming Farm Bill from Joel Rotz, dairy specialist for the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, and the dairy market outlook from Ken Bailey, assistant professor of agriculture economics, Penn State.

The teleconference occurs several times throughout the year and usually includes an outlook on the dairy market by Bailey

and an additional guest. Extension offices across the Commonwealth host the discussions.

According to Rotz members of the House and Senate are presenting their respective versions of the Farm Bill in conference discussions. Their goal is to have the Farm Bill completed before the Easter recess.

Both the House and Senate commit to an extension of dairy price support, however differences in this price support exist.

One difference is that the Senate's program splits the country into the northeast (12 states) and

the rest of the country. Producers in the northeast are eligible for a payment whenever the monthly Class I (fluid milk) price falls below \$16.94 per hundredweight. Both have an eight million pound eligibility level, which translates into a farm of less than 400 cows.

Although there is a large disparity in money available between the two regions, the plan actually brings equity in the total Farm Bill, since southern and midwestern grain farmers receive substantial support under the bill.

Both bills would require countries exporting milk to the U.S. to

pay checkoff fees.

Both versions also include authorization of a Johnes Disease Control Program. The program, however, is only authorized and lacks funding.

Conservation of natural resources is a priority item in the Farm Bill. "This will pump a lot of new money into the farm program to help conservation programs," said Rotz. There will now be additional support for manure storage, soil erosion, streambank fencing, stream

crossings, and other similar programs. All sizes of operations are eligible.

In his summary of the dairy outlook, Bailey said that he expects to see the USDA reduce the nonfat support price by 10 cents in the near future.

Overall, in 2002, milk prices may drop by nearly \$2. Butter prices are weakening as inventory is up, he said.

Also cow numbers are leveling out, which may trigger a drop in heifer replacement prices.

Workshops Focus On Milking Performance

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Wanted: Progressive dairy owners and managers seeking to increase performance in their milking center.

Dairy producers know that they need to get outstanding performance from their milking facilities. Outstanding performance demands that everyone working in the milking area knows their job and is encouraged to do it well. It also demands that the milking equipment and staff work together to create a comfortable and productive environment for cows.

Milking Center Management is an intensive, two-day workshop designed to teach dairy farm owners and managers the skills they need to get top performance from their milking facilities and cows. Managers will learn from leading experts about how to im-

prove milking speed, limit mastitis, increase quality, and boost productivity.

The workshops will be limited in size so that participants can get maximum opportunity to interact with the experts and other managers in the audience. Instructors designed all material to be practically applied, so participants can take the knowledge and tools home and immediately use them for their own milking center management.

In addition, Milking Center Management participants will have an opportunity to stay in contact with fellow participants and instructors from the course. This unique opportunity will help participants to get continuing support and advice as they make changes at their own farm. The workshop is designed to bring about profitable change and improvement in your dairy operation.

Milking Center Management will be offered in two locations from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day:

- Tuesday, April 9 and Wednesday, April 10 at the Atherton Hotel, 125 S. Atherton St., State College.

- Thursday, April 18 and Friday, April 19 at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg/Hershey, Exit 28 off Rt. I-81, Grantville.

For more information about the short course, contact Richard Stup at (814) 652-6430 or RichStup@psu.edu. To register for the course, contact the Conference and Short Course office at (814) 865-8301, or visit our website at <http://conferences.cas.psu.edu/>.

This program is sponsored by Land O' Lakes, Inc., Dean Dairy Products/Wengert's Dairy, Dairylea Cooperative, Dairy Farmers of America's Northeast Council, and DeLaval.

Clinic To Help Western Pa. Residents Ensure Safe Drinking Water-

BEAVER (Beaver Co.) — Pennsylvanians who rely on a private well, spring or cistern may be drinking tap water that contains some form of contamination, according to a Penn State Cooperative Extension educator.

"Between 60 and 70 percent of all private well water supplies in the state don't meet all drinking water safety standards," said Susan Boser, water quality agent. There are about one million private water supplies in Pennsylvania, mostly springs and wells fed by groundwater, and about 20,000 new wells are drilled in the state every year.

To address these problems, water specialists from Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences and the Environmental Resources Research Institute will offer a live satellite clinic, which will be down

linked in Lab Classroom 121 at Penn State Beaver Campus from 7 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. March 27.

The aim is to provide rural residents with the information they need to cost-effectively maintain a safe and plentiful water supply.

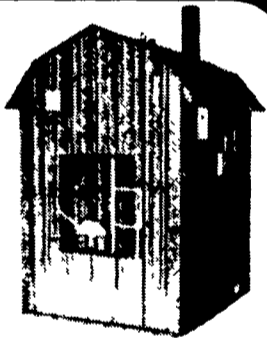
"Residents who receive water from a public water company or authority can be confident that their water meets drinking water safety standards," Boser says. "But if you own your own private supply, you have sole responsibility for managing the quality and quantity of your water."

The clinic is free, but registration is required. For more information, contact the Beaver County office of Penn State Cooperative Extension at (724) 774-3003.

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Bulls At Sale

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — With only two weeks to go, Agriculture Secretary Sam Hayes reminded beef producers of the announced 2002 Bull Performance Test and Sale being hosted by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) on Friday, March 29.

The sale will begin at 11 a.m. at the Ag Arena at the University Park Campus. Sixty-eight beef bulls will go across the auction block.

"The Bull Test and Sale exemplifies the best of Pennsylvania's beef industry," Hayes said.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Lapp's Barn Equipment held a Grand Prize Drawing at the annual Open House. Pictured above are this year's winners of \$1,500 toward the purchase of Jamesway parts:

Roberta and Dave Rotelle and their children (L to R) Mary Kate, A.J., Hope & Joy. The Rotelles Farm 82 acres in Honey Brook, PA, and have a 50 stall cow barn.

Other Winners In Lapp's Drawing

1st Place	Stihl Weed Eater	Samuel Beller, Quarryville
2nd Place	Stihl Leaf Blower	Verna Stoltzfus, Gap
3rd Place	Makita Drill Kit	Bill Walton, Cochranville
4th Place	J-Star Jacket & Cap	Lester Zimmerman, Narvon
5th Place	J-Star Jacket & Cap	Melvin Kauffman, Strasburg
6th Place	P.B. Zimmerman Lawn Chair	Ben King, Ephrata
7th Place	JD Rain Gauge	Abner King, Gordonville

Lapp's would like to thank everyone who came and made this our most successful open house ever—we fed over 650 people!



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