

From the Department of Dairy and Animal Science

This regular column from Penn State's Department of Dairy and Animal Science features the research findings, student opportunities, and reports on other important topics generated in the Department. The back issues of the column are archived on Lancaster Farming's Internet www.lancasterfarming.com home page. Look for them.

WEB-BASED **DELIVERY SYSTEMS Karen Vines Distance Education** Coordinator Department Of Dairy **And Animal Science**

The official mission of Penn State's College of Agriculture

Sciences is to create, analyze, and share knowledge to enhance the food and agricultural system, natural resource and environmental stewardship, and economic and social well-being, thereby improving the lives of people in Pennsylvania, the nation, and the world. Traditionally, this has been accomplished in the classroom through extension workshops and presentations or through printed material such as publications or newsletters.

As the population's access and comfort level in using computers is increasing, we must recognize the Internet as another tool to use in improving the lives of our clientele.

The creation of the Distance **Education Coordinator position** in the Department of Dairy and Animal Science this past June indicates how the department is seizing this opportunity. Distance education provides opportunity to focus on the customer, letting them determine the time and location of delivery of educational materials.

Opportunities provided through use of new technologies range from providing basic information on a Webpage to the offering of Web-based interactive courses that individuals can complete for college credit without having to step on campus. Many new opportunities currently exist and others are being developed. This article will highlight some of the new opportunities.

Webpages

Webpages serve as the primary introduction for many people to the Internet. They provide a means for getting information out to a large number of people. Information may be "static" i.e. rarely changing. Earlier pages basically provided contact in-formation for a company or busi-

Today's pages tend to be much more dynamic and interactive. Content on many popular pages

changes by the hour and can be tailored to meet your specific preferences or needs. One of the main advantages provided by the web over print-based media is the ease with which changes can be made as situations change or new information becomes available.

The Department of Dairy and Animal Science developed its original Website 1996. in Christian Vinten-Johansen currently serves

as Webmaster

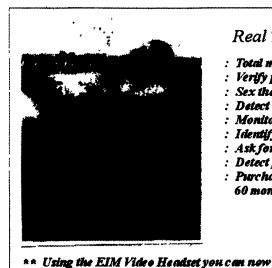
and is looking for new ways to enhance the use of the site. The site serves as a collection of information about activities within the department as well as providing access to research-based production and marketing information related to the various livestock species within the department. Links to student organizations hosted by the department are also provided on this site. The site is located at http:// www.das.psu.edu.

A recent effort resulted in the development of a nutrient management Website. This site serves as a repository for information useful to livestock producers within the state related to animal nutrient issues. The site was initiated and has been developed by a committee within the department of Dairy and Animal Science with assistance from the Information and Communication Technologies Unit in the College of Agriculture. Content has been provided by subject matter specialists in the following departments: Ag and Biological Engineering, Ag Economy and Rural Sociology, Crop and Soil Sciences, Dairy and Animal Sciences, School of Forest Resources, Poultry Science, and Veterinary Science. The USDA Pasture Systems Water Shed Management Research Laboratory also provided material for the site. This site is located at http://nutrient.psu.

Interactive Tools

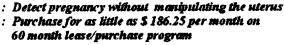
Interactive tools allow the client to utilize information specific to their situation and to tailor the educational materials presented to aid them in the decision-making process. One example of an interactive tool is the Food Industry By-Product Website, which was designed to meet the needs of both livestock producers and the food industry in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

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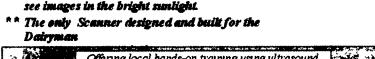


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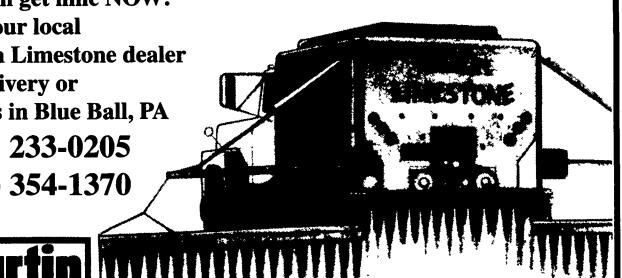


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