

Open House Shows Growth, Milk Testing Process

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*Food And Family
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MANHEIM (Lancaster Co.) — Hundreds of farm families toured Lancaster County DHIA testing labs during its open house this week.

Many expressed amazement that only two seconds are required to test samples for fat, protein, solids, and lactose. Some farmers remembered the "old" days when milk testers stayed overnight at farms and calculated records by hand.

While visitors expressed astonishment at the testing process, Jay Mylin, manager of the association, said he, himself is in awe of how much has changed in the past 10 years.

"It has outgrew my vision," Mylin said. It started with 58,000

cows and has grown to 150,000 processed monthly. The service area covers 30 counties in Pennsylvania and several counties in northern Maryland.

To better serve farmers, the Lancaster County DHIA broke away from the Pennsylvania DHIA in Oct. 1, 1992. They became affiliated with Raleigh Daily Record Processing Center (RDRPC), which continues to provide processing records. The Manheim office transmits lab testing results to RDRPC, which uses its software to configure management data reports.

In the beginning, Mylin's poultry house on his family farm was remodeled to serve as the county's headquarters. Since then, the building has been expanded and remodeled several times.

"Ten years ago, we didn't have a lab. We sent samples to Maryland DHIA for testing," Mylin said.

Installing a lab not only enabled the organization to cut costs but also

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Jay Mylin, manager of Lancaster County DHIA, tells how the organization has grown during its 10-year history, from testing 58,000 cows to 150,000 monthly.



Leanne Snyder shakes samples entered to test. Set amounts are drawn for vials with automatic stirrers and probes testing for butterfat, protein, solids, and lactose.



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