

# Milk Production Must Keep Up With Burgeoning World Demand

(Continued from Page A22)

land spends \$32 million on dairy research and development," said Wilson.

The dairy leader believes taxpayer dollars need to be spent on opening up foreign markets for U.S. dairy products. And producers need to take the time to open up lines of communication with key employees and become leaders by enthusiasm.

At the meeting and banquet, several dairy leaders were honored for their work.

The Charles E. Cowan Memorial Award, presented to a dairy producer who has demonstrated superior management capabilities and provided outstanding leader-

ship within the industry, went to John Reed Rodgers of Belleville. Rodgers, owner/operator of Plum Bottom Farm, Inc., has devoted his leadership skills to several breed organizations. He has served as president and vice president of the Pennsylvania Ayrshire Association and the U.S. Ayrshire Breeders Association, in addition to eight years on the board of the World Federation of Ayrshire Breeders.

Rodgers has used a rotational grazing system for his 50-cow Ayrshire herd. He has been active in the Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council and the American Forage and Grassland Council. Rodgers has also served

as board member of the Penn State Agricultural Council as well as president, vice president, and secretary.

David Smith, executive secretary of the Pennsylvania Dairywomen's Association, noted that Rodgers helps "educate the state's teachers about the importance of agriculture by speaking to hundreds of teachers at the annual Ag Awareness Foundation workshops. He has also provided leadership to the Ag Awareness Foundation by serving on its director board."

Rodgers has received many awards, including the American Forage and Grassland Council Outstanding Farm Award in 1963. He has made seven visits to third-world countries. He noted that he shares his honors with the farmers of a country of which he made seven trips to — Kazakhstan in Central Asia.

Berneta Gable, Snider Homestead Dairy Farm, Bedford County, is the recipient of the Pennsylvania Dairywomen's Association 2003 Distinguished Dairy Woman Award.

After graduation from Penn State, Gable returned to the home farm. In 1984 she purchased the dairy herd and farm. Since that time she has doubled the size of the dairy herd while consistently increasing production. Today, she manages a 110-cow Guernsey and Holstein herd on 310 acres with a focus on top-quality forages.

Cow comfort, quality herdsman-ship, and sound breeding decision have led to Gable's development of the current 18 Excellent cows in the herd. The

show ring has also been a part of the success at Snider Homestead, noted Dixie Burris, DairyOne Pennsylvania, who presented the award. "Berneta has bred many All-Americans, national show winners, and national class leaders."

Said Burris, "Berneta's respect in the dairy industry has led to her being a role model to many youth. She has spent countless hours toward helping education youth about the dairy industry."

Gable has hosted PDCA Judging Schools, Pennsylvania Holstein Junior Judging School, annual Penn State collegiate judging teams, and area elementary schools. Gable has also provided leadership to the Pennsylvania Guernsey Breeder's Association, serving as president. Gable serves on the national board of the American Guernsey Association. She received national recognition by the World Dairy Expo as the 2000 Dairy Woman of the Year.

The 2003 Pennsylvania Dairywomen's Association Extension Award was presented to Clyde Myers, Berks extension agent. Myers was born and raised on a dairy, swine, poultry, and crop farm in northern York County. He obtained his undergraduate degree in animal science from Delaware Valley College in 1972 and obtained, in 1982, a masters of agriculture education from Penn State.

Myers was an ag instructor at Red Lion High School in York County from 1972-1977. Since 1977 he has been an extension agent for Penn State in Berks County with major responsibilities in dairy, livestock, land preservation, and agriculture zoning.

Myers has coordinated, counseled, and worked cooperatively over the years with DHIA, Holstein Club, Dairy Farmers Association, and Berks County Agricultural Land Preservation Board, noted Mike O'Connor, Penn State Cooperative Extension, who presented the award. "Clyde has provided numerous educational activities, such as tours, in-depth seminars, regular farm visitations, newsletters, and phone consultations. He annually holds a Dairy Day program and his newsletters are distributed to dairy producers on a regular basis."

Myers also conducts dairy nu-

trition schools, milking schools, reproductive schools, and meetings on herd health issues.

Myers has also facilitated many Farm-City activities, with a directly positive effect on the dairy industry, noted O'Connor. Myers has been "at the forefront of planning, implementing, and evaluating the Berks County Farm-City Banquet, which is in its 19th year." The banquet annually attracts approximately 350 participants. And for many of those events, noted O'Connor, dairy has been the topic of focus.

Myers has also conducted numerous teacher seminars on agriculture with a strong emphasis on the dairy industry. Myers recently conducted an intensive one-week "Food and Fiber Course" for high school educators, which gives them educational activities to use with their students covering dairy and ag issues.

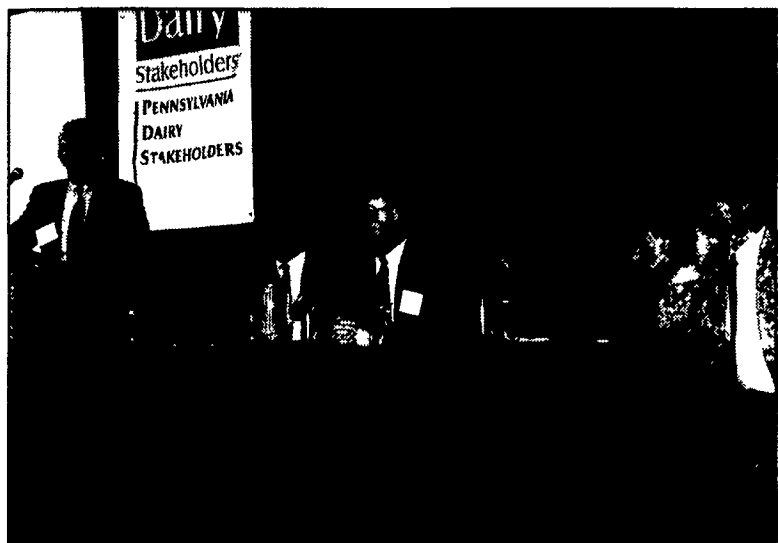
Myers has also coordinated Ag In the Classroom activities for local schools with trips to a dairy farm, dairy processing plant, and dairy distribution business.

Myers' work on farmland preservation efforts have led to Berks County having one of the most successful programs in the country, according to O'Connor. Myers has assisted in ag preservation zoning, ag security areas, and economic development within Berks County. Myers has conducted several research projects benefiting dairy clientele, with research on bird control, fly and odor problems, intensive pasture management, animal housing, and ventilation.

Myers lives with wife Judy near Shartlesville. They have two daughters, Kelly, a Penn State graduate in elementary education, and Melissa, a junior at Penn State majoring in health and human development.

Earlier in the day, several producer and ag industry panels examined the position of producers, processors, and retailers in the Northeast, and a comprehensive panel on the freedom of dairy farms to operate when the Right to Farm Law is challenged by local townships.

More information about the annual Stakeholder Conference is scheduled for the February issue of *Lancaster Farming's Dairy Plus*.



Walt Pechatka, PennAg Industries, far left, moderates a panel on the right to farm comprised of Steve Graybeal, partner, Graywood Dairy Farm, Peach Bottom; Elam Herr, lobbyist, Pennsylvania Township Supervisors Association; Jennifer Reed, Countryview Farms; and John Bell, legal counsel, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau.



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## LanChester Pork Council Production Forum & Annual Meeting

Dec. 17th 8:30 am - 2 pm

Yoder's Restaurant, New Holland, PA

8:30 am - 9 am

Registration

9 am - 10:15 am

Dr. Max Rodibaugh

\* Reducing NPD's in Your Sow Herd

10:15 am - 11:30 am

Dr. Nate Winkleman

\* Diagnostics and Immunity of Ileitis

\* Treatment, Control and Prevention of Ileitis

11:30 am - 12 noon

National Pork Board Spokesman

12 noon - 1 pm

Lunch and Annual Meeting

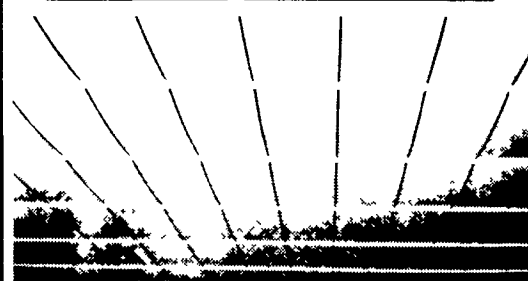
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