

Stakeholders Recognize Dairy Producers With Pacesetter Awards

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Lancaster Farming Staff

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Three dairy operations were recognized with Pennsylvania Dairy Stakeholders Pacesetter Awards at the organization's annual meeting Thursday. Hilecrest Farms, Vista Grande Farms, and Herman Brubaker received the awards, which honor dairy producers who portray a positive image of the dairy industry and work to establish a viable future for the industry.

Dave and Janet Hileman, Tyrone, Blair County, operate Hilecrest Farms, a 450-cow operation. In addition, Dave is the president of the Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania (PDMP). The Hilemans have also worked to incorporate Hispanic labor into their operation.

"Dave is always willing to ask if there is a better, faster, cheaper, more efficient way to get things done," said Ralph Heffner, Pacesetter awards committee chair. "If there is, he'll find it" and share his experience with others, said Heffner.

Vista Grande Farm, Fleet-

wood, Berks County, is owned by David and Phoebe Bitler, a 100-cow operation. They are working on combining more than 600 acres of cropland with their neighbors, which will allow the couple to focus more closely on the dairy aspect of their farm business.

Phoebe has been active in public speaking for agriculture and serves in leadership roles of several agricultural organizations. David sells registered breeding bulls and is treasurer of the Pennsylvania Holstein Association.

The couple also organize and sponsor several bus tours, such as to the World Dairy Expo, and host an agricultural focus tour each year.

Herman Brubaker operates a 70-cow dairy in West Alexandria, Ohio. He leads Dairy Farmers of America (DFA) and spearheaded the effort to develop single-serve, recyclable plastic milk containers. Brubaker also supported development of flavored milk products to compete with other single-serve beverages.

Prior to those accomplishments, he led the industry in leg-



From left stands Ralph Heffner, Pacesetter awards committee chair; Phoebe and David Bitler, Fleetwood; Janet and Dave Hileman, Tyrone; Scott Higgins, ADADC Mid-East for Herman Brubaker; and Chuck Cruickshank, president, Pennsylvania Dairy Stakeholders.

Champions Named In Junior Beef Breeding Show

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — 4-H, FFA, and Junior Beef Association members participated in the Junior Beef Breeding Show at the Keystone International Livestock Exposition on Oct. 6. Breeds represented in the show include the Angus, Hereford, Limousin, Shorthorn, Simmental, and Highland.

In the Angus Show, the grand champion winner was Herman Hake, Etters. Winning the reserve champion rosette was Cortney Dukehart, Skysville.

The Hereford breed winner was Pine Tree Acres, Thurmont, Md. and CJ Cattle Company, Mount Joy, won the reserve champion.

Receiving champion recognition in the Limousin breed was Bailey Rittberger, Zanesville, Ohio. To complete the champion pair was Lil Texas Farm, Collins, N.Y. as the reserve grand champion.

Adam Zurin, Mount Joy, won Shorthorn breed grand champion. To round out the championship was Andrew Keller, Middletown, Md. with the reserve grand champion.

Completing the Junior Beef Breeding Show was the Simmental breed with Shane Smithson, White Hall, as grand champion and Matthew Blaugh, Jonestown, as reserve grand champion.

islation supporting the dairy industry, encouraging and overseeing the unification of regional dairy organizations into Dairy Management, Inc. (DMI), a national program. Brubaker is board chair of DMI.

Pacesetter Award nominations are accepted throughout the year and are due Oct. 1, 2003. Contact Michelle Jaymes-Parks at (717) 948-6609 for nomination forms.

Also during the annual meeting, Allyn Lamb gave a treasurer's report and two incumbent and two new board members were elected to the organization's board.

President Chuck Cruickshank gave a synopsis of the past year's

activities of the organization. In April, Pennsylvania Dairy Stakeholders sponsored an economic task force meeting that pooled the ideas of 25 industry representatives to set goals to be achieved by 2005.

Part of the organization's goals is an online dairy resource planning guide (dairydevelopment.psu.edu), a checklist and directory of service providers for dairy operations.

The organization also sponsors advocacy groups to carry the message of the industry, and has been "very involved in legislative activity," according to Cruickshank.

The Business Planning Assistance Program (BPAP) has al-

ready given grants to 37 producers for planning assistance.

During the meeting, Samuel Hayes, agriculture secretary, phoned in from Puerto Rico to tell the 200 attendees of the "Export for Scholars" program under way. The students and state FFA officers took bred heifers, Dorset sheep, and Charolais bulls for the trade mission experience. Julie Flinchbaugh, York, a state FFA officer, also gave a few comments.

During the meeting, Deputy Secretary Russell Redding was honored for his help in developing the Stakeholder organization, an effort which has been "personally rewarding," according to Redding.



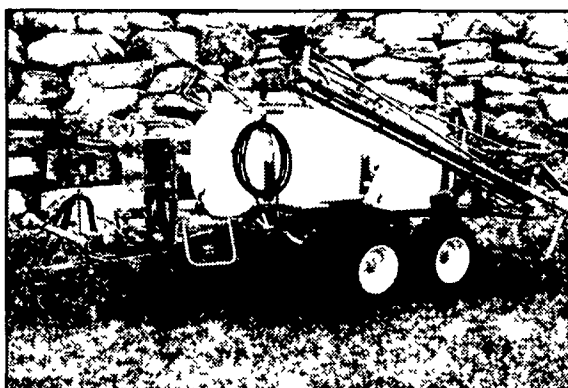
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