

## Dairylea, DFA Working To Stop Imports Of Raw Milk From Canada

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Dairylea Cooperative Inc. and the Northeast Council of Dairy Farmers of America, Inc. (DFA) are working on a number of initiatives at the state and federal levels to close loopholes permitting the importation of bulk raw milk from Canada.

Currently, there are reports of small volumes of milk from Canada being delivered to cheese plants in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Indiana. Dairylea and DFA are asking that all imports of raw milk from Canada be prohibited in an effort to prevent any negative effects on U.S. farm milk prices.

The importation of bulk raw milk is regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as established in the Import Milk Act of 1927. The FDA is an agency of the Federal Department of Health and Human Services. Under this act, the FDA is responsible for granting licenses for all imported milk and ensuring that necessary inspections are completed.

"Unlimited imports of Canadian milk would ultimately lower farm milk prices in the Northeast and throughout the U.S.," said Clyde Rutherford, president of Dairylea Cooperative. "Although at this time the problem is small, Canadian milk brokers have shown interest in bidding out significant volumes to U.S. buyers. The problem will only escalate."

"This milk is a part of Canada's surplus and is being dumped in our markets. This can potentially worsen our supply/demand issues," said Lewis Gardner, chairman of the Northeast Council

of Dairy Farmers of America. "At a time when we are starting to see positive signals that U.S. milk prices will improve, it is critically important to eliminate a problem that could negatively impact farmer income if left unchecked."

Dairylea and DFA's Northeast Council are working on the following initiatives:

- Meeting with Tommy Thompson, secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, to discuss the negative impacts of the FDA's practice of granting licenses for imports.

- Asking Northeastern state departments of agriculture to take action to prohibit milk plants in their states from receiving Canadian milk. New York, Vermont and Ohio have already taken measures to prohibit these imports.

- Requesting Congressional support in pressuring the Department of Health and Human Services to make the appropriate administrative changes, which would prohibit raw milk imports from Canada.

Both cooperatives are also generating grassroots support from members on this issue. Members are being asked to contact their state's secretary or commissioner of agriculture and congressional leaders to make them aware of the problem.

"I believe that if dairy farmers work together to voice their concerns on this issue, we will see action," said Rutherford. "This is an instance where government officials have the ability to remedy a problem before it gets out of hand."

## Farm Show History, Construction Next Issue



**HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Before TV, before video games, before the Internet . . . there was the Pennsylvania Farm Show. Crowds flocked here near mid-century to the Small Arena (now called the Sale Arena) to see this horseshoe contest. Read a complete history of the Farm Show Complex and learn how new construction will uplift the face of future Farm Shows, beginning in 2003, in Lancaster Farming's Farm Show Showcase section next week. This week, schedules, exhibitors, and maps of the Farm Show appear on pages D25-D29.**

## 2003 New Holland Vegetable Day Set

NEW HOLLAND (Lancaster Co.) — Greenhouse tomatoes, weed, insect and disease control in vegetables, and asparagus production are just a few of the more than a dozen topics to be covered at the New Holland Vegetable Day January 20, 2003.

The meeting is sponsored by the Eastern Lancaster County School District and Lancaster County Cooperative Extension.

Greenhouse flower growers will want to catch the sessions on "Perennial Production" and "Mum Varieties and Production."

A panel of local growers will talk about their experiences with using beneficial insects instead of pesticides for greenhouse tomatoes. Raspberry and strawberry production and food preservation will round out the program.

Category pesticide credits will be available at some sessions. Two core pesticide credits will be offered at the "Pesticide Safety" session.

The meeting will be Monday, Jan. 20, at Yoder's Restaurant in New Holland. Yoder's is located along Rt. 23 at the eastern edge of New Holland.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. Cost for the day is \$10 per person if you preregister by Jan. 15, or \$15 per person at the door. Lunch is provided.

For more information, contact Jeff Stoltzfus, (717) 354-1522. To register, send the enclosed form along with a check for the appropriate amount to Adult Farmer Program, 126 Eastern School Rd., New Holland, PA 17557.

### 2003 New Holland Vegetable Day

January 20, 2003

Yoder's Restaurant

Sponsored by ELANCO School District and Penn State Cooperative Extension

9:00-9:30 A.M. Registration, Coffee and Donuts courtesy of Mid Atlantic Farm Credit

9:30-9:45 Welcome, Introductions and Orientation to the program

9:45-10:30 Concurrent Sessions

Rm 1 *Asparagus Production Disease and Weed Control	Scott Walker Jersey Asparagus Farms
Rm 2 Improving Roadside marketing	Steve Bogush Penn State Coop Ext
Rm 3 Perennial Flower Varieties and Management	John Bell Yoder Bros

10:30-11:15 Concurrent Sessions

Rm 1 *Strawberry Plasticulture Establishment	Scott Walker Jersey Asparagus Farms
Rm 2 *What's New in 2003	Exhibitors
Rm 3 Mum Varieties and Management	Brad Yoder Yoder Bros

11:15-12:00 General Session

\*Vegetable Disease Control Dr. Alan MacNab PSU Extension

12:00-1:00 Lunch

1:00-1:45 General Session

\*Controlling Problem Weeds Mike Orzalek, Penn State Extension

1:45-2:00 General Session

Vegetable Research Program Update Bill Troxel PA Veg Growers

2:00-2:45 Concurrent Sessions

Rm 1 Opportunities in Sweet Onions	Mike Orzalek Penn State Extension
Rm 2 *Bramble Pest Control	Kathy Demchak Penn State Extension
Rm 3 New Peach Varieties	Tom Callahan ACN

2:45-3:30 Concurrent Sessions

Rm 1 *Greenhouse Tomato IPM Panel	Local Growers, Cathy Thomas PDA
Rm 2 Food Preservation Concerns for the Roadside	Nancy Wiker Lancaster County Ext
Rm 3 **Pesticide Safety	Katie Evanchak PA Dept of Ag

3:30 P.M. Visit exhibits on your way home

\* Category pesticide credit will be available for these sessions

\*\* Core pesticide credits will be available for this session

Name \_\_\_\_\_ # Attending \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10/person = \_\_\_\_\_ Total

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Make checks payable to Adult Farmer Program

## EPA Ruling Concerns Land O'Lakes

ARDEN HILLS, Minn. — Land O'Lakes, Inc. voiced concern that the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) new Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) rule, released earlier this week, will add to the financial pressure farmers are facing after an already difficult year.

While the national farmer-owned food and agricultural cooperative appreciates the importance of the new regulations, there is concern among its membership regarding the cost of compliance, according to Steven Krikava, Land O'Lakes director of government relations.

"Land O'Lakes supports programs that will provide cost-sharing and will help livestock producers comply with the new regulations," Krikava said. "We also are pleased that the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will be involved with implementation of the nutrient planning aspect of the rules."

The CAFO rule will apply generally to pork producers who feed at least 2,500 mature animals in confinement for more than 45 days per year, although in some instances smaller operations will be affected.

For dairy farms, the regulation will affect those with a herd size of 700 or more, though some smaller operations may have to acquire permits under the Clean Water Act, develop nutrient management plans, improve record-keeping and monitoring, and enhance nutrient handling activities.

The EPA worked with industry representatives like Land O'Lakes in an attempt to keep the rules realistic and workable.

"Our members are the best stewards of the land," Krikava said. "We know that they will ensure their dairy and livestock operations are not polluting our nation's environment, so we urge our producers to participate in programs like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) in order to cushion the cost of compliance."

## Office Closed New Year's

On New Year's Day, Wednesday, Jan. 1, Lancaster Farming office is closed. The office will reopen Thursday, Jan. 2.

For the Jan. 4 issue, there are some early deadline changes:

Public Sale and Mailbox ads, 5 p.m., Friday, Dec. 27.

Classified, Section D ads — 3 p.m., Monday, Dec. 30.

Classified, Section C, Farm Equipment ads, 3 p.m., Monday, Dec. 30.

Sect. A ads, 9 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 2.

General news — noon, Thursday, Jan. 2.

## Pa. Holstein To Offer Special Membership Rates At Farm Show

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — The Pennsylvania Holstein Association will have information booths at both the Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg and the Keystone Farm Show in York. The Keystone Show runs Jan. 7-9 and the Pennsylvania Farm Show runs Jan. 11-18.

The association invites members and friends to stop by and visit them to find out what's new and happening in the association.

People who are interested in joining the Pennsylvania Holstein

Association will want to consider a visit to either show as a time to join the association. Pennsylvania Holstein will be running a membership special for new members who join between Jan. 1-18. Any new member can join at that time for a base fee of \$17.50 plus 33 cents per cow.

The association encourages dairy producers and other dairy industry enthusiasts interested in joining the association to stop by the booth and visit with the association about becoming a member. If you cannot attend either

Farm Show, you can still send in an application by Jan. 18 to receive the new member discounts.

For more information about the Pennsylvania Holstein Association or to receive a membership application, contact the Pennsylvania Holstein Association, 839 Benner Pike, State College, PA 16801. Phone (814) 234-0364, fax (814) 234-1698, e-mail HYPERLINK mailto:pha@vicon.net pha@vicon.net or access the Website at HYPERLINK http://www.paholsteins.com.