

**Ida's
Notebook**
by
Ida Risser



Valentine's Day has come and gone. Hopefully we are left with a few cards to show that someone remembered us. February 14, 1928, the day that I got no valentines, my sister was born and she was my valentine. Mazie died in her youth but is well remembered as a brown-eyed youngster.

She developed health problems after our big family of girls got scarlet fever. We were quarantined for eight weeks. That was a lot of school to miss, and thus I did not pass Latin that year. So, I was tutored in order to continue to study it the next year.

We had an unpleasant adventure last week as we tried to visit my sister in another county. Our car stopped running on a busy highway. We were lucky that a state trooper came along and called a tow truck for us. However, when we got to a garage, we had a very long wait. They ordered the wrong part and so instead of going to our destination, we had to turn around in order to get home by dark. We were sorry that we worried my sister's family but these things happen.

Last week we saw two red foxes playing in the meadow below our house. It is one sign that spring is not too far away. Also, on my diningroom table is a dish of blooming paper-white narcissus. I used them as a centerpiece when I had company to help us eat the big piece of lamb that our son gave us for Christmas. We also used the dark green tablecloth that his wife gave as a Christmas gift. It is too easy to simply lay away a gift and not use it. So, I made an effort to share it with others.

Winter Wardrobe Refreshers

LEBANON (Lebanon Co.) — When winter clothes need a quick pick-me-up, new timesaving products are just what the wardrobe doctor ordered.

In-dryer kits are an innovation that save time and money. The products are used in the clothes dryer to freshen a wide variety of dry-clean-only garments. Although difficult stains may still require the services of a dry-cleaning professional, these kits will help remove wrinkles, odors and light stains.

Wrinkle-releasing sprays will do the trick when ironing is not on the agenda. Although safe for most fabrics, it's necessary to read the label. Some products shouldn't be used on fabrics that water spot.

Fabric refreshers neutralize odors on hard-to-wash fabrics and soft surfaces, such as carpets, upholstery and curtains. They're also handy for wardrobe items, such as canvas shoes and tote bags, as well as bulky winter coats.

Finally, detergent and fabric softeners with color protectors can keep whites white and colors bright. The trick is to use the product from the beginning of the garment's lifetime. These products protect color, but won't restore it.

Training For Child Care Providers

COLLEGEVILLE (Montgomery Co.)—A six-hour child-care training course is being offered by Penn State Cooperative Extension on Monday, February 17, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the New Hanover Child Care Center in Gilbertsville. Registration is required, the cost is \$7 per person for the day. All participants will receive 6 DPW training credits and .6 Continuing Education Units from Penn State University. Lunch is included in the registration fee.

The course will include "Critical Incident Survival," presented by the Criminal Investigations Division of PA State Police; "Transitions" by Nancy Jackson; and "Create, Create, Create—Hands-on Activities for Pre-schoolers," by Ida Wiener Moss. There will also be an optional Fire Safety Training from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For more information and registration form, call Penn State Cooperative Extension in Montgomery County (610) 489-4315.

Ag Career And College Fair Planned For Adams Co.

GETTYSBURG (Adams Co.)—The Gettysburg Battlefield FFA and the Gettysburg Area Young Farmers have announced the area's first "Agriculture Career and College Fair." We are inviting area agriculture business to participate in this opportunity to meet the future leaders in the agriculture industry.

The fair will take place on Tuesday, March 18, at the Adams County Agriculture and Natural Resource Center in Gettysburg. The fair will begin at 8:30 a.m. and agriculture high school programs within an hour radius will be invited to attend. The planners intend to schedule groups at different times of the day so that not everyone arrives at one time. This will also be advertised at local colleges so they may attend at their convenience.

Tables will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis. The cost for a table is \$30.00 and all tables must be set-up by 8:20 a.m. Businesses will have an opportunity to talk with young people about a career in agriculture.

Companies interested in participating in the fair should contact Battlefield FFA, Gettysburg Area High School, 1130 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325; phone (717) 334-6254.

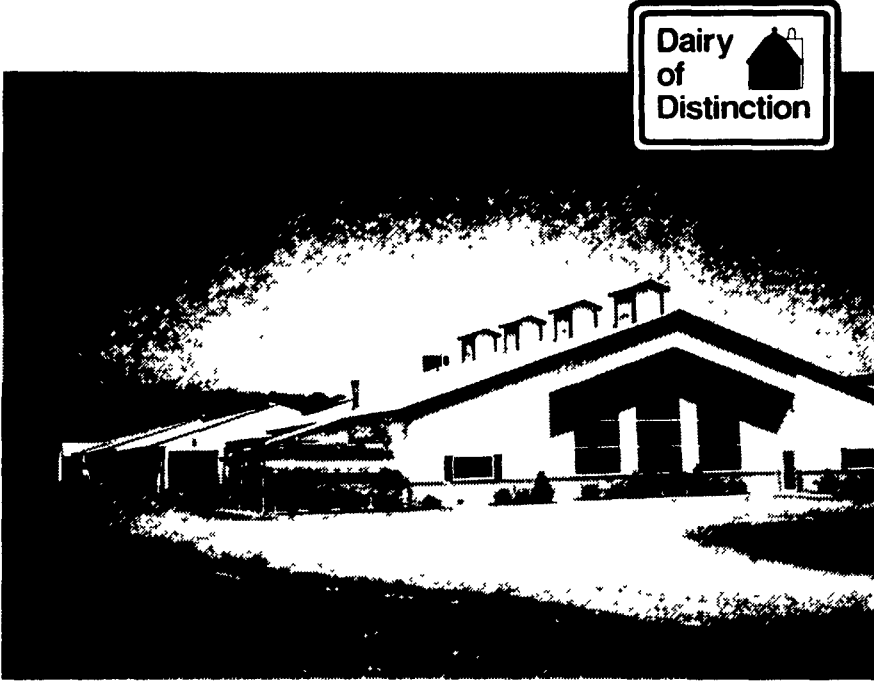
Apply For Dairy Of Distinction Award By April 15

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Pennsylvania dairy farms are invited to apply for this year's Dairy of Distinction award from the Northeast Dairy Farm Beautification Program. Applications must be submitted by April 15.

The award is based on the idea that attractive farmsteads enhance consumer confidence in the wholesomeness of milk and stimulate milk sales and public support for the industry. Dairies receiving the highest scores in each of 10 Pennsylvania districts will be awarded an 18- by 24-inch Dairy of Distinction sign to display in front of their farm

"This program is run by volunteers and recognizes the hard work and dedication of dairy producers who promote a positive image for the dairy industry," said Mike O'Connor, secretary of the Pennsylvania Dairy of Distinction program and professor of dairy science extension in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

Roadside judging will take place in May. Judges will look at factors that can be controlled by the farmer, such as clean and attractively finished buildings; neat landscaping, ditches, roads and lanes; and well-maintained fences. They also will take into account other aspects of the farm, such as cleanliness of animals, the barnyard, feed areas and manure management.



Pictured is the Kulp Family Dairy, Blair County, one of Pennsylvania's Dairies of Distinction for 2002.

Winning farms will be notified in late June. Because this is a yearly award, previous winners are reevaluated each year to see if they are still maintaining excellent standards.

To receive an application, call Mike O'Connor at (814) 863-3913 or e-mail him at HYPERLINKmail to: MOConnor@psu.edu.

Since 1987, Pennsylvania's Dairy of Distinction Program has recognized more than 700 dairy farms. The Pennsylvania program is part of the Northeast Dairy Farm Beautification Program, which also includes New York, New Jersey, and Vermont. Dairies in these states can contact the program secretary in their state for applications.

HOW IS YOUR FARM SCORED?

Awards will be based upon neatness, good maintenance, and other factors, which can be controlled by the farmer. Attractive background scenery should not be weighed heavily in judging. All judging observations should be made from a vehicle at one or more points on an adjacent public highway (or if farm is off the road, the nearest lane). Judging should give equal consideration to old wood construction and new construction of metal or concrete block.

The award program may be used for subsequent advertising or promotion activities for dairy products or dairy farming. Farmers who apply for awards agree that, if selected, they will cooperate with these activities and make all reasonable efforts to maintain both the exterior and interior of their properties in an acceptable condition.

HOW THE JUDGING WORKS

Judging teams will visit the farms during the month of May. Farms will be judged each year as the award is presented on an annual basis. Any dairy failing to maintain appearance standards will be asked to remove their sign. The Dairy of Distinction signs remain the property of the committee, not the property of the dairy farmer. All farms must achieve a compliance score of 90 percent on their Dairy of Distinction score card. Your cooperative or milk handler will be contacted to approve your milk quality.

RULES FOR THE DAIRY OF DISTINCTION AWARD

- 1 The Dairy of Distinction sign remains the property of the Northeast Dairy Farm Beautification Program Committee (NEDFBP)
- 2 The post and bracket shall be supplied by and maintained by the dairy farmer. NEDFBP suggests that a wood post 4" x 4" x 12" or iron pipe 2" x 12" be used. Posts or pipe should be installed and maintained in true vertical position with 8' above ground. Top of the bracket should be lower than six inches from the top of the post. In addition, NEDFBP suggests that the sign be mounted in a frame to provide additional stability.
- 3 The sign shall be displayed in front of the dairy at roadside. An attractive post and bracket, or other frame shall be used to display the sign. No more than three signs should be displayed from the sign frame or post, and all shall be of a style, general size and quality comparable to the Dairy of Distinction sign. The sign should be secured on all sides to avoid wind damage.
- 4 Signs shall not be moved to other premises. New owners of a Dairy of Distinction farm must apply to retain the sign.
- 5 Replacement of damaged signs shall be at the discretion of the committee.
- 6 No producer shall be charged with scoring or sign expenses.
- 7 The judges' decision will be final.
- 8 Judging will take place between May 1 and May 31.
- 9 Farms awarded a Dairy of Distinction sign in previous years will be judged between April 1 and April 30. If they do not qualify, they will be rejudged between May 1 and May 31 so they have the opportunity to keep the sign.
- 10 Farms that do not requalify will return the sign to their regional Dairy of Distinction Committee.

Dairy of Distinction 2003 Pennsylvania Application

PURPOSE OF PROGRAM

Attractive dairy farms give the consumer greater confidence in the wholesomeness of milk and stimulate milk sales which encourages public support of the dairy industry. The award gives recognition to the dairy farmer for maintaining a well-kept farmstead.

ELIGIBILITY

All Northeast dairy farms producing milk for sale are invited to submit an application for the award. Dairies receiving the 10 highest scores in each of the 21 districts will receive an 18" x 24" Dairy of Distinction sign to be displayed in front of their farm.

APPLICATION

Your Name _____ Farm Name _____
Mailing Address _____
Phone Number _____
Cooperative or Handler (where you ship your milk, be specific) _____

(Your Handler will be contacted to approve your milk quality)
Location (driving directions for judging team) _____

County (where your farm is located) _____

I hereby apply to the Northeast Dairy Farm Beautification Committee to have my dairy scored in accordance with the rules of the program for the purpose of obtaining a Dairy of Distinction sign to be displayed on my premises.

(No producer will be charged for scoring or sign expense.)

_____ Date _____

Signature Owner/Operator _____

Return application by April 15 to:
Michael O'Connor
Department of Dairy and Animal Science
324 Henning Building
Penn State University
University Park, PA 16802