

Lancaster Farming

Vol. 48 No. 18 www.lancasterfarming.com Five Sections Saturday, March 1, 2003 \$36.00 Per Year \$1.00 Per Copy



New York Dairy Princess Andrea Smith, center, First Alternate Kristen Chambers, left, and Second Alternate Jessica Hula are the new dairy spokespersons representing the New York dairy industry. Turn to page B2 to read about the industry and awards presented during the ADADC convention.

CORNtalk

Pennsylvania Corn Growers Association

★ INCLUDES 5-ACRE CONTEST WINNERS ★

Lancaster Farming • Section E • Saturday, March 1, 2003

MICHELLE KUNJAPPU
Lancaster Farming Staff
CRANFORD (Dauphin Co.) — Even though snow still lies in a grip on Pennsylvania producers could help thinking about spring planting and next year's crop. They gathered at the Herb Farm in Cranville for the 2002 Corn and Soybean Conference. Top plucings in the classes are in a related story on this page.

After the product was developed and tested (a process that took 15 months), it was moved into consumer testing. The consumer feedback team was picked as the group of consumers to try the product. After product research, the players' opinion of the drink, which resembles a low fat milk shake, according to Boyd. The players eventually developed the drink, they told us what they liked and didn't like," he said.



The 2002 Five-Acre Corn Club winners are in Corn Talk, the newsletter of the Pennsylvania Corn Growers Association (PCGA), this issue. Included: Corn and Soybean Conference information and PCGA and National Corn Growers Association news.

Speaker Addresses Mycoplasma — 'Nemesis' Of Feeder Cattle Producers

MICHELLE KUNJAPPU
Lancaster Farming Staff

NEW HOLLAND (Lancaster Co.) — "The reason we put this meeting together is that we've all been dealing with this (mycoplasma) in one form or another for

quite a while," said extension beef specialist John Comerford during a recent meeting at Yoder's Restaurant, New Holland.

Approximately 45 producers and industry representatives attended the informational meeting

to hear Dr. Dee Griffin, beef production management veterinarian for the University of Nebraska.

Griffin, who has been a veterinarian for 27 years, has focused on feeder and stocker cattle during his career.

Although mycoplasma has been "a nemesis" for Griffin for years, it was this past year — when he discovered calves at a well-managed farm had a mycoplasma infection — that spurred his renewed research and efforts to understand the organism. Mycoplasmas are slow-grow-

ing micro-organisms somewhere between a virus and bacteria. They lack the normal rigid cell wall of bacteria, instead having a coating similar to a "polysaccharide mucus," according to Griffin.

This casing allows mycoplasma to invade all the tissues and organs of the body.

Mycoplasma, though a hefty problem, is actually a fragile organism. It replicates only once every day or more, while most bugs replicate in an hour," he said.

Additionally, cattle have to be

exposed for 3-5 days to contract the disease, "because this is a pretty flimsy bug," he said.

There are seven groups of mycoplasmas that affect cattle, and "they don't all do the same thing," said Griffin. They may cause lesions, which cause airways to "get corroded so that air doesn't pass" as efficiently, according to Griffin.

The cost is that the calves do not gain as well. However, ultimately a feedlot animal's average daily gain over the last 28-day

(Turn to Page A22)

Lebanon Teen Wins National Hereford Queen Title



Margeaux Firestine, Womelsdorf, at left, was crowned the National Polled Hereford Queen during the Polled Hereford Show at the National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colo. on January 24. Crowning her is Brandi Bolte, Nebraska, outgoing queen. See story on page A21.

LOU ANN GOOD
Food And Family Features Editor

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Agrifinance has been Darvin Boyd's career for 26 years. On Thursday, at the First Union Agri-education Seminar at the Farm and Home Center, Boyd bid farewell to hundreds of people in attendance.

Boyd is retiring as senior vice-president and director of First Union National Bank on March 31.

"Boyd is much more than a banker," said Barry Shaw, bank board member president. "His positive attitude and enthusiasm has helped many of us through ag's (financial) cycles. He is a friend who has helped people well beyond banking duties."

Boyd has gained respect for his commitment to agriculture and for his encouragement to many, especially the youth.

"I know the importance of youth. I was one," Boyd said of the reason he continually involv

(Turn to Page A36)



On behalf of First Union, Barry Shaw, right, presents an award to Darvin Boyd, who is retiring after 26 years in agrifinance. "The most important part of my career is my staff and my customers. You made me tick," Boyd said in an emotional farewell.

Photo by Lou Ann Good, food and family features editor