

Ida's Notebook

by
Ida Risser



We've had a snowstorm to top most snowstorms and we were snowed in for a few days. Even our driveway was still closed after the road was opened by township plows. The long lane to the farm was closed too as our son and his wife spent a weekend in New Orleans.

Not only did the many heifers have to be fed and watered, but the small animals needed attention. So I drove the three grandchildren to their home so that the dogs, cats, guinea pigs, and lizards would be fed. Then they remembered that the crickets, that were to be fed to the lizards, were at a neighbors and so we picked them up too.

Some of the children visited their friends over the weekend but then, due to the snow, they had to stay overnight and into the next two days. Their parents finally managed to get home in a rented car as the airports were closed.

At least, I had company for a few days as my husband is still in the hospital. He came through the three operations okay but I had a real shock when I was told that he must stay there for six to eight weeks. I could not believe what I was hearing. I'd expected to care for him at home.

My daughter from New Jersey was in London for a week, but our son from Delaware came, and together we visited Allen. Now I hope to visit him when Philip goes to see him in the evening. We can talk on the telephone, which is something that we never did before when he was home. I suppose we'll get through this ordeal eventually.

Breast Cancer Awareness Program

GOODVILLE (Lancaster Co.) — A Breast Cancer Awareness Program will be held on March 10 at 7 p.m. at the Goodville Fire Company Building, 1606 Main Street in Goodville.

Discussion and instruction regarding self breast exam and mammography will be the purpose of the program. This program will be presented in association with the American Cancer Society and concerned volunteer health care professionals in cooperation with the Ladies Auxillary of the Goodville Fire Company.

The program is free and open to all interested women. Contact Pat Spangler at (717) 687-7434 or (717) 656-6122 with any questions. Help with transportation can be arranged by calling Annetta Ravegum at (717) 445-6779.

Beekeeping Workshop Offered In Wayne Co.

HONESDALE (Wayne Co.) — The Wayne County Beekeepers Association and Penn State Cooperative Extension in Wayne County are offering a free three hour "Introduction to Beekeeping" workshop, Saturday, March 8, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at the Wayne County Visitors Center, 303 Commercial Street in Honesdale. Anyone with an interest in bees and honey production is encouraged to attend.

To register for this workshop, contact Dave Messersmith at the Penn State Cooperative Extension office in Wayne County at (570) 253-5970, ext. 239. Class size is limited so please make your reservations early.

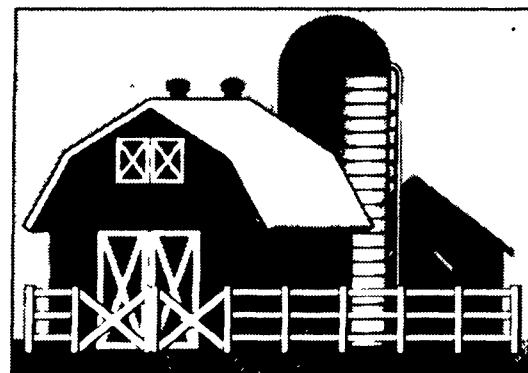
Bucks Co. Extension Offers Short Course On 'Few Acres'

DOYLESTOWN (Bucks Co.) — Living on a few acres? Want to grow your own apples, raise a few sheep, and produce your own eggs for breakfast? If you said "yes" to any of these questions, or just want to learn more about small scale food production, Penn State Cooperative Extension in Bucks County has a short course designed just for you.

Since 1983 we've conducted a six-week, evening course called "Living On A Few Acres". We'll provide practical lessons on key subjects that will lead you to successful and rewarding experiences as you grow more of your own food.

A comprehensive reference manual is provided to each couple or individual who participate in the course. The course begins Wednesday, March 26 with classes continuing on consecutive Wednesdays through April 30 from 7:30-9:30 p.m.

We're looking forward to another successful course in 2003 and hope that you'll be part of it. Call Bucks County Cooperative Extension for a registration form (215) 345-3283. Registration is on a first come, first served basis. Registration is confirmed by payment. \$20 per person or \$30 per couple. The course can accommodate 36 people.



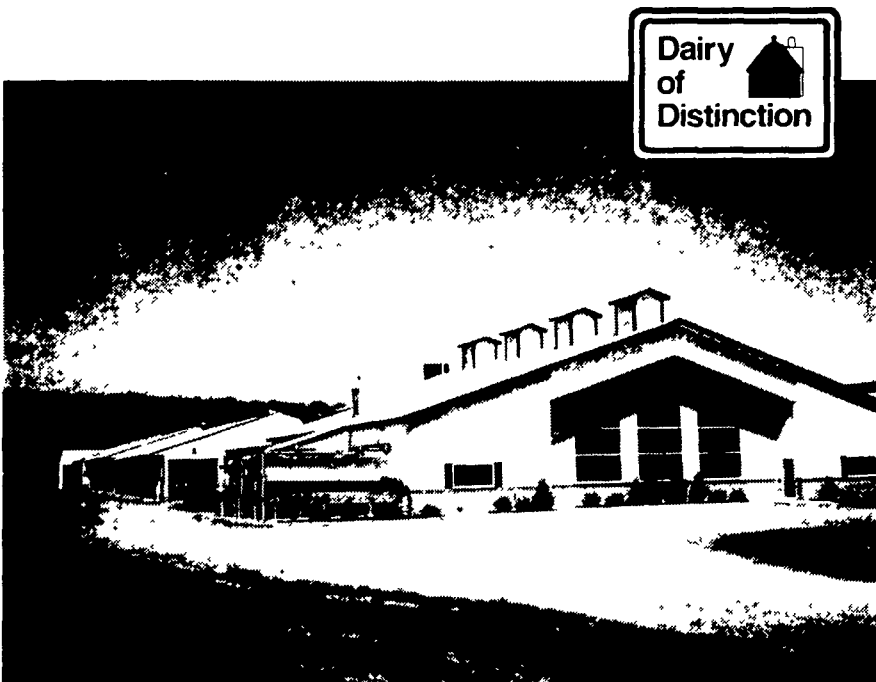
Apply For Dairy Of Distinction Award By April 15

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 HYPERLINKmailto:MOCConnor@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

- The Dairy of Distinction sign remains the property of the Northeast Dairy Farm Beautification Program Committee (NEDFBP).
- 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.
- 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.
- Signs shall not be moved to other premises. New owners of a Dairy of Distinction farm must apply to retain the sign.
- Replacement of damaged signs shall be at the discretion of the committee.
- No producer shall be charged with scoring or sign expenses.
- The judges' decision will be final.
- Judging will take place between May 1 and May 31.
- 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.
- 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