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Md. Holstein Association Honors Breeders, Youth

DAVE LEFEVER
Lancaster Farming Staff

FREDERICK, Md. — About 400 people turned out for the Maryland Holstein Association's annual banquet March 21 to celebrate another year of progress. The gathering took place at the Lynfield Event Complex near Thurmont.

Many youth and adults were honored for their achievements with Holsteins in 2002.

Charles and Anne Lethbridge of Chan-Lee Holsteins, Carroll County, took home the Maryland 2002 Outstanding Senior Maryland Holstein Breeder Award.

The Lethbridges began dairy-

ing in 1966, after purchasing a farm in the Union Bridge area.

Originally made up of grade animals, the Chan-Lee herd became 100 percent registered a number of years ago. Years of a registered breeding program produced an outstanding cow family, including Chan-Lee Aerostar Glare, who was three times classified Excellent-91. One of her high quality daughters was a top seller at the 1997 Maryland Convention Sale. Chan-Lee Duster Glenna went on to score EX-90 and become a high producer for Conant Acres in Maine.

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Joe and Nona Schwartzbeck received the 2002 Distinguished Service Award at the recent Maryland Holstein Association annual banquet. Dennis Remsburg, right, presented the award for the A. Doty Remsburg Memorial Fund. Photo by Dave Lefever

Ariz. Dairy Makes Heat Stress Management A (Cool) Breeze

ANDY ANDREWS
Editor

GRANTVILLE (Dauphin Co.) — What can dairy producers in any of the green and lush valleys of Pennsylvania learn from a guy making milk in the harsh desert of Arizona?

How about keeping cows cool, for starters.

About 200 dairy producers and agri-industry representatives learned a variety of ways one dairy producer in the dry heat of the desert is able to stave off heat-related herd health problems Tuesday during the first of a two-day Maximizing Opportunities Conference during the Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania (PDMP) meeting at the Holiday Inn in Grantville.

Tom Thompson, operator of Stotz Dairy, Buckeye, Ariz., manages 6,400 cattle (milking herd size of 3,676) and 43 employees. Thompson also custom-farms more than 2,400 acres of alfalfa and 900 acres of double-cropped corn silage.

While providing an in-depth review of all aspects of Stotz Dairy, Thompson was careful to focus on the greatest challenge the cows face: the Arizona desert, which can be deadly.

"Cows are built for 65-degree weather," he told those at the conference. Last summer, "we measured, in the shade, 125 degrees."

For 90 days straight, the high

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Livestock Evaluation Center Almost Complete

Facility May Be Named Samuel E. Hayes, Jr. Livestock Meat Animal Evaluation Center

MICHELLE KUNJAPPU
Lancaster Farming Staff

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) is nearing completion of a new, world-class Livestock Evaluation Center (LEC).

To better serve the beef, sheep, and swine breeders of Pennsylvania and America, this new \$6.4 million center will provide the necessary facilities to test for superior genetic traits.

The complex is 10 times larger than the current facility operated by the PDA.

A meeting of the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs com-

mittee on Monday, March 24, was slated to address designating the new center as the Samuel E. Hayes, Jr., Livestock Meat Animal Evaluation Center, as put forth in Senate Bill 340.

"The new facility is roughly 80 percent complete," said Glenn Eberly, Livestock Evaluation Center director. "The hog barn is relatively completed and we already have boars and gilts there."

"Many of the livestock producers are justly very excited about all the possibilities," Eberly said. "I think that there will be great deal of interest in using this new facility for meetings, conferences and educational programs."

"We tried to design and build a facility with a great deal of flexibility and utility to it," said Eberly.

"There will be a very nice conference/classroom, the food prep area could be used to serve a large group of people, and there will be a large area that could accommodate a large trade show."

New features also include an assembly hall, exhibit area, dormitory room, manure management facilities, bunker silos, auction capability, and seating for 700.

The new Livestock Evaluation Center is more than 178,000 square feet.

"There is also a huge potential to use this world-class facility for meaningful research to benefit the livestock industries," said Eberly.

"The beef industry stands to gain a great deal from this expansion."

Each of the five pens under roof cover a concreted area 30 feet by 100 feet, "which is rough-

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Paul Neer leads Carmell Linjet Sunshine out of the barn for Lancaster County visitors to see during a Holstein Club tour to the Belleville area this week. Sunshine, classified EX-93 as a 5-year-old, was one of many superb cows the group had a chance to view during the tour to six farms. See full story on page A21. Photo by Dave Lefever

EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) — Lancaster Farming was the recipient of two awards from the 2003 Nor'Eastern Contest sponsored by the NorthEast Farm Communicators Association.

For a team effort, Lancaster Farming was honored with the Best One-Time Project Award for the National Holstein Convention Daily Newspaper. In addition, Michelle Kunjappu, staff writer, was honored with the Best Photo/Image Award.

The one-time project award involved, for the first time in Lancaster Farming's history, publishing a four-color daily newspaper covering the events at the National Holstein Convention in Atlantic City, N.J., June 24-27, 2002. The newspaper was

distributed exclusively to those who attended the annual convention.

The entire newspaper staff was involved, including Editor Andy Andrews; Lou Ann Good, food and family features editor; Michelle Kunjappu, staff writer; and Dave Lefever, staff writer.

A separate award for best ag photo image was for a photo taken in late October by Kunjappu on a frosty fall morning showing beef cattle capering across a farm pasture near State College. The photo appeared on page 1 on Nov. 2, 2002.

The Northeast Farm Communicators Association awarded certificates of excellence to participants in the Nor'Eastern

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