

Stray Voltage And Dairy Farms Conference Coming To Camp Hill

CAMP HILL (Cumberland Co.) — "Stray Voltage and Dairy Farms: A Conference for Farm Advisors, Educators, Utilities, and Public Policy Advisors," will take place April 9-11, in Camp Hill.

Experts from Wisconsin, Michigan, Nebraska, New York, Arizona, Ohio, Vermont, and Canada will share their experience and answer questions at this unique event. University, state government, utility, and industry perspectives are included. The conference is sponsored by NRAES, the Natural Resource, Agriculture, and Engineering Service.

Stray voltage is defined by the USDA as "a difference in voltage between two surfaces that may be contacted simultaneously by an animal." When this occurs, the cow acts to complete the circuit and experiences a small shock or

"tingle." Research shows that stray voltage may increase cow stress and health problems. Sometimes, however, problems attributed to stray voltage are in fact caused by something else, and a multidisciplinary team is needed to identify the actual problem.

The conference will begin with an overview of electricity and wiring fundamentals to ensure that everyone has the background necessary to understand the more technical presentations that follow. Specific objectives of the conference are to:

- provide an overview of the fundamentals of electricity, power distribution, and farm and home wiring systems;
- present research accomplished since the 1991 publication of Effects of Electrical Voltage/Current on Farm Animals: How

to Detect and Remedy Problems, the most current USDA handbook on the topic;

- discuss on-farm and off-farm sources of stray voltage, the National Electric Code, measurement of stray voltage, data interpretation, and mitigation technology;
- define a multidisciplinary approach to determine whether problems attributed to stray voltage have another cause;
- summarize state and utility responses to stray voltage concerns and explore the need for improved standards; and
- publish a conference proceedings that will be useful to educators, dairy advisors, utilities, and others involved in stray voltage issues.

The "Stray Voltage and Dairy Farms" conference is being coordinated by NRAES, the Natural Resource, Agriculture, and Engi-

neering Service. The registration fee is \$310 after March 25 or at the door. The fee includes one conference admission, an evening reception, one lunch, break refreshments, and a copy of the conference proceedings. See NRAES contact information below.

The conference will take place at the Radisson Penn Harris Hotel and Convention Center in Camp Hill.

To register for the conference or request a brochure that includes the program, a registration form, travel information, and more, contact NRAES, PO Box 4557, Ithaca, NY 14852-4557; phone (607) 255-7654; fax (607) 254-8770; or e-mail nraes@cornell.edu. For complete conference information and updates, visit the conference Website at www.nraes.org/conferences/voltage.html.

Two Dairy Workshops Planned In Lancaster County

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Two workshops will be conducted in Lancaster County for dairy farmers, nutritionists, and industry persons interested in improving transition cow health and nutrient management for their dairy herd.

The first workshop will take place April 8 at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center and the second April 15 at the Lancaster DHIA lab, Manheim. The sessions will run from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Speakers will include Dr. Les Lanyon from the department of Crop and Soil Sciences; Dr. Robert VanSaun from Veterinary Sciences, and Dr. Zhiguo Wu of the Department of Dairy and Animal Science. Two nutrient management continuing education credits will be offered for attending this workshop.

The following topics will be covered:

- Transition cow health: Potassium metabolism, downer cow problems, milk fever prevention; flowchart for diagnosing and correcting transition cow disorders.
- Forage management for transition cow health: Crop potassium uptake and content; tools for monitoring farm potassium status and reducing forage potassium content.
- Dairy phosphorus: Reduce ration phosphorus for better transition cow health, less manure phosphorus, and lower feed costs.

The cost for each workshop is \$10, payable at the door, which will include lunch. To register, call the Lancaster County Extension office at (717) 394-6851, or send name and address to Beth Grove, Lancaster County Extension, 1383 Arcadia Road, Room 1, Lancaster, PA 17601.

2003 Red Angus EPDs Available

DENTON, Texas — The 2003 Spring Red Angus EPDs are now available.

The Red Angus Association of America (RAAA) publishes EPDs for growth, female fertility, and carcass traits which include genetic predictions for birth weight, weaning weight, yearling weight, milk, total maternal, calving ease direct, heifer pregnancy, calving ease total maternal, stayability, marbling, ribeye area, and back fat.

Red Angus carcass EPDs are available on over 340,000 head. This industry-leading program has successfully incorporated both traditional carcass data and real time ultrasound into the calculation of the genetic predictions for carcass merit.

The new EPDs are from the Spring 2003 Red Angus National Cattle Evaluation conducted at Colorado State University. The EPDs are available on the web at www.redangus.org.

For a free sire summary and membership directory, please contact the Red Angus Association at (940) 387-3502 or info@redangus.org.

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