

Maryland & Virginia Cooperative Outlines Plan

(Continued from Page A38)

ence. You've got to play close attention to mastitis, and knowing cows really well helps ID new cases."

For herds of less than 150 cows, Samuel Swarey and family of Mechanicsville, Md. were named top, with somatic cell counts of 95,222, plate counts of 442, and a freeze point of 0.548.

For herds in Federal Order 5 &

7 areas, Quality Producers of the Year were H. Dean Ross of Waynesville, N.C., more than 150 cows, and Allen and Marlene Wittmer, Mountain View Dairy, Deer Lodge, Tenn., less than 150 cows.

J.W. Eustace and family of Catlett, Va. were honored for 75 years of membership in the co-op.

J.W. Eustace started the farm in 1928. The 300-head operation is now run by his son Jimmie

Eustace and his grandson, Matthew.

Fifty-year members recognized at the banquet were Clifton Farms, Dickerson, Md.; High-Hope Farms, Calverton, Va.; George and Doris Ingram and family, Floyd, Va.; Bill Roberts, Somerset, Va.; Rockland Farms, Mercersburg; Raymond Schrock, Catlett, Va.; and L.L. Yancy, Keezletown, Va.

Entries Sought For 2004 Beef Industry Vision Award

DENVER, Col. — Nominations are now being sought for the 2004 Beef Industry Vision Award. The award is presented by the National Cattlemen's Foundation (NCF) and sponsored by Ford Motor Company.

The Beef Industry Vision award is given to an individual who has demonstrated innovation in their cattle operation or beef business and serves as an example to others to follow. These individuals can be from any segment of the industry.

Up to seven regional winners will be selected from the pool of nominations with the national winner being announced at the 2004 Annual Convention and Trade Show in Phoenix, Ariz., next January.

"The Vision Award gives the industry an opportunity to take a closer look at individuals who have made a difference for their own business and the beef industry through innovative practices," according to Bob Josserand, NCF Chairman.

Nominees will be evaluated on

the basis of effective use of technology, impact on profitability, ingenuity of implementation, impact on the industry, and optimum resource management.

"There are some amazing people in cattle and beef businesses in the United States and we would like to recognize a few of their efforts," Josserand adds.

All nominations are due May 1. For nomination forms and program information contact the National Cattlemen's Foundation at (303) 694-0305 or ncf@bee-f.org.

Pa. Dairy Farmers Head To Washington

MIFFLINTOWN (Juniata Co.) — Pennsylvania dairy farmers will join others from across the nation in Washington, D.C., April 7-9, in a call to limit imports of casein and milk protein concentrate (MPC).

A delegation, led by Pennsylvania Farmers Union President Larry Breech, will advocate closing trade loopholes that allow a flood of MPC and casein into the U.S.

The farmers specifically support the Milk Import Tariff Equi-

ty Act — S.560 by Sens. Larry Craig, R-Idaho, and Mark Dayton, D-Min., and H.R. 1160 by Reps. Don Sherwood, R-Pa., and David Obey, D-Wis. — which would limit these imports by imposing effective tariffs.

"American dairy producers need fair markets," Breech said. "Dairy farmers are getting the lowest prices for their products that they've seen in 25 years. Imported casein and milk protein concentrates fuel the dairy crisis by flooding the domestic market."

A 2001 General Accounting Office

study indicated that MPC imports had surged by 600 percent in six years, more than doubling in 1998 and 1999. While certain imported powdered milk products are subject to tariff-rate quotas, MPC and casein are not.

Breech said the farmers also are asking the Food and Drug Administration to uphold standards that restrict the use of MPC in standardized cheese.

While in Washington, the farmers will meet with members of the Pennsylvania congressional delegation and attend briefings with officials from the FDA, USDA, and International Trade Commission.

Local Group To Study Biodiesel Possibilities Meetings Set For Berks, Adams Counties

DAVE LEFEVER
Lancaster Farming Staff

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — A biodiesel initiative is in its early planning stages, with an eye toward possibly building a biodiesel plant in southcentral Pennsylvania.

"Right now, we're looking to see if it's feasible," said Mike Gerhart, an ag economy consultant with the Harrisburg-based Regional Economic Development District Initiative (REDDI).

According to Gerhart, a biodiesel production plant in the area could increase value-added opportunities for farmers.

Soybean oil would be the main source for producing biodiesel in the area. Waste kitchen oil can also be converted into the fuel and used as a petroleum-based diesel replacement.

At this point, REDDI is moving toward the stage of making

requests for proposals from independent consulting companies to conduct a feasibility study for such a plant.

Two informational meetings have been scheduled on the topic.

"We want to inform farmers about the information we are putting into a feasibility study," Gerhart said.

If a feasibility study would show positive potential for such a project, the next step would be to form "a nucleus of farmers" to invest and launch it, Gerhart said.

Meetings are scheduled for April 16 at the Berks County Ag Center, Leesport, and April 21 at the USDA Service Center in Gettysburg.

Both meetings will begin at 7 p.m.

Call Gerhart at (717) 920-8454 for more information.

PMMB Raises Premium

DAVE LEFEVER
Lancaster Farming Staff

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board (PMMB) recently voted to add 15 cents to the state's \$1.40 per hundred-weight over-order milk premium for the months of April, May, and June.

The PMMB named increased costs of production from increased fuels costs as a chief reason for raising the over-order premium paid to farmers for Class I milk produced, processed, and sold in Pennsylvania.

Parties testifying to the board in favor of the 15 cent increase

differed in their recommendations regarding whether and to what extent the premium should be allowed to "float" monthly with changes in fuel costs (rather than be set at a fixed rate).

The PMMB noted that it is hesitant "to implement a floating premium that could conceivably float to a point where competitive problems could arise anew."

The PMMB's concern about a disparity between the Pennsylvania over-order premium and out-of-state voluntary premiums causing a competitive disadvantage for Pennsylvania milk had resulted last fall in a vote to lower the premium in steps from

last year's \$1.65 level to \$1.25 by April-June of this year.

In February, however, in response to an emergency hearing, the PMMB voted to maintain the premium at \$1.40 through June.

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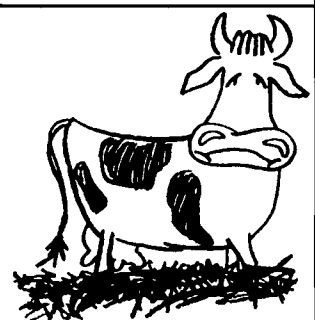
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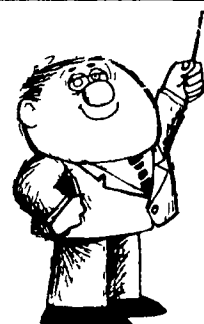
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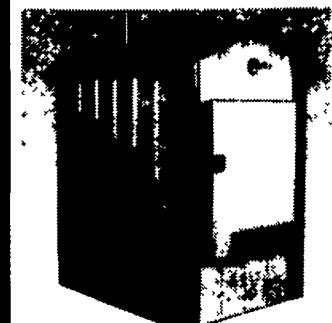
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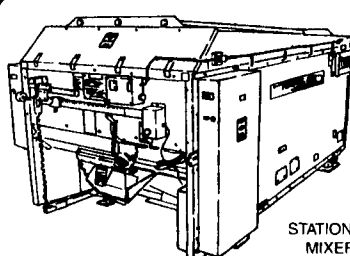
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