

Processors: Work Together

(Continued from Page A22)

prices have not dropped at all in the past two years, Barr noted.

The annual conference at Penn State changed its name, previously from the Ag Bankers Conference to the Ag Credit Conference, noted Richard Crouse, farm loan manager, Farm Service Agency. Many of the farm service credit agencies play a larger role in traditional ag lending.

Keith Masser, president of

Sterman Masser, Inc., Masser Potato Farms, Sacramento, Pa., also spoke at the conference.

Recently, Masser was awarded a \$450,000 USDA grant to develop a processing plant for off-grade and rehydrated potato products.

Masser noted the plant, which makes use of innovative alternative energy strategies (using landfill gas as an energy source), will provide value for potatoes where there wasn't any before. The

plant will be completed in October 2004.

Masser said the company, incorporated in 1970, will use the new facility to provide product to Mrs. T's Pierogies plant in Shenandoah, Schuylkill County. The Massers have commitments from Georgia Foods and are working on several other long-term contracts with other food manufacturers.

Afternoon tours included a visit to the Lynn Neer Farm near Belleville. The home farm includes 78 acres and the Neers rent three other farms, for 200 acres total.

The Neers have a custom heifer raising operation for five dairies in Blair County and other locations.

(More information on the Neer farm is scheduled in the June Dairy Issue of *Lancaster Farming* June 7.)

Also, the tour group visited Plum Bottom Farm operated by John Rodgers family in Belleville. Plum Bottom, an eighth-generation Ayrshire Farm, is home to the "Raised to Graze" Sale on Saturday, Aug. 16. More information is scheduled in the July 12 Foraging Around section in *Lancaster Farming*.

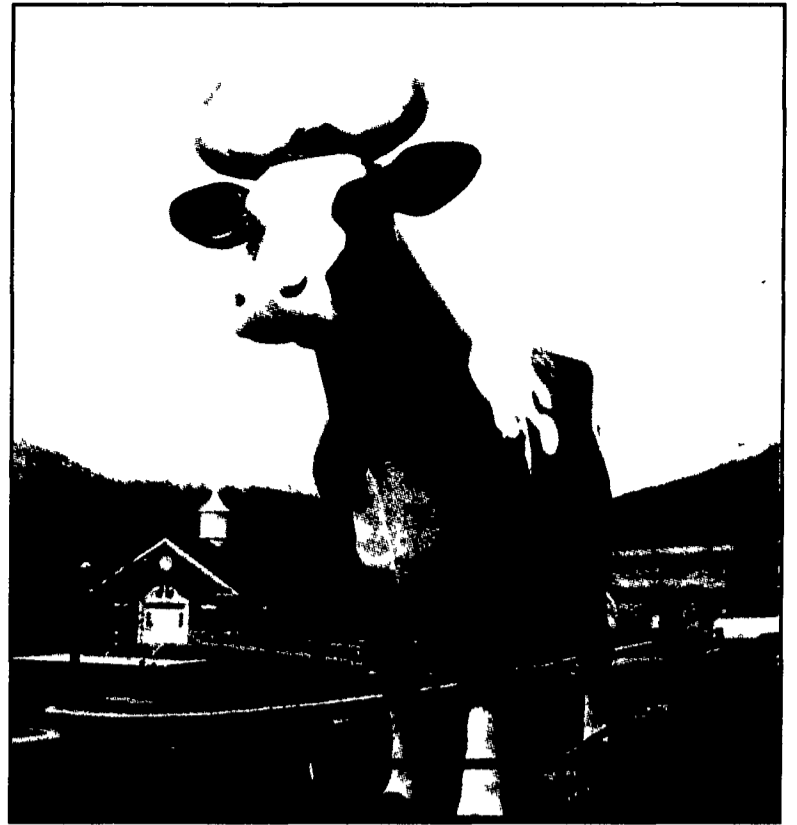
Also, the tour group visited Peachey's Wood Products, a sawmill in Reedsville. According to John Peachey, the company employs 14 full-time, supplying general contractors with a host of wood materials, including hardwood floors, moldings, and other products.

Peachey noted that in 2002, the company sold 3.4 million feet of kiln-dried hardwood. Products are made from red oak, cherry, and white maple.

Peachey projects the company will sell four million feet of wood this year.



Workers assemble milled handrails made of red oak during the tour.



This giant Ayrshire cow was an attraction during a stop for ice cream for the conference members at Dairyland At Home ice cream parlor Tuesday.

The tour group also stopped in Dairyland At Home, Reedsville, to see the big Ayrshire cow at and picked up an ice cream treat.

Here's something *Lancaster Farming* subscribers have been waiting for: the 2003 *Lancaster Farming Fair Guide* booklet, scheduled to premier May 24. Thousands of our readers count on *Lancaster Farming* to provide them with the latest fair news during the summer and fall season. You can look toward the fairs with this extensive directory, covering an eight-state region. Planned is a list of fairs and fair association news. Will photos of your family turn up in the book from fairs around the region? Check it out!



OPEN HOUSE

Miller Poultry Farm - Halifax, PA

April 30, 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Light Lunch Provided

Featuring 8 Tier Multi-Deck Layer Cage System

UEP Compliant 5 Rows 8 Tiers 400' Long 160,000 Layers

System Features

Rugged steel frame construction, Increased cage densities per building, Intermediate walkway system, Solid galvanized or wire partitions, Plastic coated removable individual cage floors, Gentle egg collection system, Stainless steel nipple drinkers, V-link compartmentized feeding, Egg Saver System

System Benefits

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Congratulations and Thank You to Miller Poultry Farm

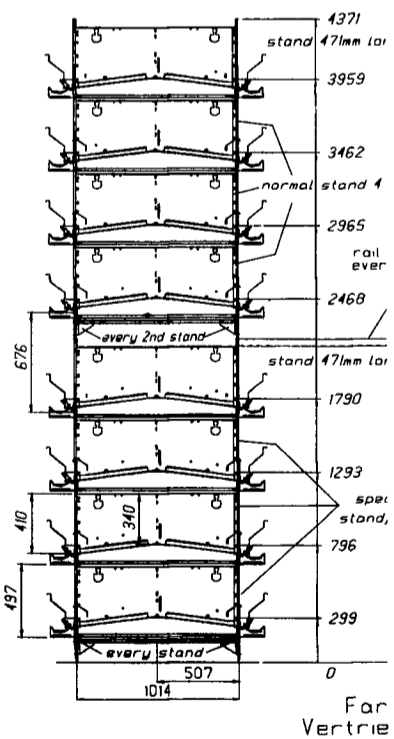
Gary and Karla Miller have been in the poultry industry for 23 years. In 1980 they built their first cage layer facility. They selected Favorite Manufacturing as their equipment supplier and built a high rise layer facility housing 60,000 layers. This renovation utilizing Farmer Automatic's Multi-Deck 8 tier layer system will house 160,000 birds and features a built in walkway system above the 4th tier.

Directions

This farm is located north of Harrisburg, PA. From Route 81 take Route 22/322 west for 6 miles, turn north on Route 225 and continue for 8 miles to Halifax, at the first street after the traffic light, turn right on Powells Valley Road and go 6 miles to the farm which will be located on the left. Cell phone during open house 207/215-9780

Multi Deck Layer Cage System With Extended Pins

Layer cage 497, 8 tiers, with 200mm pipes between 4th and 5th tier



These Hens Will Consume

35,200 lbs. of Feed per Day
7,200 Gallons of Water
1,120 Acres of Corn Production Per Year

1,120 Acres of Soybean Production Per Year
Over 3.2 sq. Miles of Crop Production

These Hens Will Provide
144,000 Eggs Per Day
Over 2 Semi Loads of Eggs Per Week

This is real beneficial to the local economy.