

Va. Dairy Festival Is Chance To Visit Modern Dairy Farm

STAUNTON, Va. — The Shenandoah Valley Dairy Farm Festival and Educational Tour at Staunton, Friday and Saturday, May 16-17, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., is a chance to enjoy a family-oriented outing that is both fun and educational. The festival will be conducted at Christians Creek and Holsteins, Inc., Sturts Draft and is hosted by Lloyd Lee and Disa McPherson and Vernon and Lucy Wright.

The festival is a free educational program geared towards people from non-agricultural back-

grounds. It is sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension.

The festival aims to teach visitors of all ages about the daily activities and technologies of a modern dairy farm. Visitors will have the chance to learn about dairy housing and cow comfort; dairy nutrition and rations; equipment and farm safety; animal waste, Best Management Practices and the environment; and milk nutrition and dairy products.

In addition to educational activities about milk, ice cream,

and cheese, there will be fun for the whole family with face painting, a calf palace, milk mustaches, a petting area, and balloons.

MMB Announces April Class I Price

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The Milk Marketing Board (MMB) announced the prices to be paid to Pennsylvania dairy farmers for April Class I milk (beverage) as an average of

\$13.59 in the western areas of the commonwealth, and an average of \$14.08 in the central and eastern areas of the commonwealth.

These prices do include the overorder premium of \$1.55 per one hundred pounds of milk.

Farmers, whose milk production is pooled under a federal order, will receive a marketwide blend price based upon the value of all classes of milk. However, the blend price received will vary as the component composition of a farmer's milk differs from the established benchmarks of 3.5 percent butterfat, 2.99 percent protein, and 5.69 percent other solids.

Since 1988 the MMB has mandated overorder premiums on Class I milk because of adverse conditions affecting Pennsylvania dairy farmers. Chairwoman Beverly R. Minor announced that since the inception of the MMB's overorder premium, Pennsylvania dairy farmers have received \$290,912,000 in additional income.

death of the industry has been:

According to PASS, Lancaster County in 2001 had the majority of "other tobacco" production, including 2,500 acres harvested for a yield of 1,996 pounds (a total of 4.99 million pounds in production) for a value of \$7.7 million. If you add the remaining 500 acres in the state for tobacco harvest, the total value in 2001 was a little more than \$8 million.

In the past 23 years, one year stands out for tobacco production in Lancaster County, according to PASS — 1981. That year there were 12,240 harvested acres at 25.1 million pounds of tobacco cigar filler Pennsylvania Seedleaf Type 41. Since then, in 1985, there were 7,050 harvested acres at 13.7 million pounds. In 1988, the first year of both Type 41 and tobacco air-cured light southern Maryland Type 32 production, there were 5,340 harvested acres at 9.22 million pounds of Type 41 and 3,390 acres of Maryland Type 32 at 6.2 million pounds.

By 1998, the numbers decreased even more, to 3,900 harvested Type 41 acres at 8.1 million pounds and 2,500 Maryland Type 32 acres at 4.75 million pounds.

In 2001, the latest year for which data are available, Type 41 registered 1,700 acres at 3.5 million pounds and only 800 acres of Maryland Type 32 at 1.48 million pounds.

For all classes of tobacco, the 23 years show stark differences. In 1981 for all of Pennsylvania, the best year in the past 23, there were 13,300 harvested acres for 27.26 million pounds. By 2002, harvested acres for all tobacco dropped way down, to 3,400 harvested acres for 6.8 million pounds.

To those whose income (as well as mortgage) depended on tobacco, we wish you well. If you take out loans and depend on tobacco, you could be wishing upon a star, or so the saying goes.

We are even reminded of the quote from Shakespeare about how money can build and destroy:

Neither a borrower nor a lender be;

For loan oft loses both itself and friend,

And borrowing dulls the edge of husbandry.

This above all: to thine ownself be true,

And it must follow, as the night the day,

Thou canst not then be false to any man.

— Polonius in "Hamlet."

In the coming months, *Lancaster Farming* will be examining niche markets and ways in which producers are taking advantage of them in several of our special sections. We hope to pass along their success stories so that others can benefit in these tough times.

Now Is The Time

(Continued from Page A10)

begin in the blossom, it is essential to apply fungicides during the bloom period. Research has shown that if the blossom sprays are applied in a timely manner, spraying during harvest does little to improve control and may not be needed. However if the blossom sprays are missed, sprays at harvest time alone will not be very effective because the infections started during the blossom period.

Apply the first spray at 10 percent bloom — apply again at full bloom

and late bloom. There are a number of products labeled for Botrytis control in strawberries, including Elevate, Captan, Thiram, Benlate, and Topsin M. Read and follow the label directions, especially the "days to harvest" restrictions. Consult the "Commercial Berry Production and Pest Management Guide" available from your local extension office for more details.

Quote Of The Week:

"No matter what the size of the bottle, the cream always comes to the top."

— Charles Wilson

Mother's Day Free For Moms At Hershey Gardens

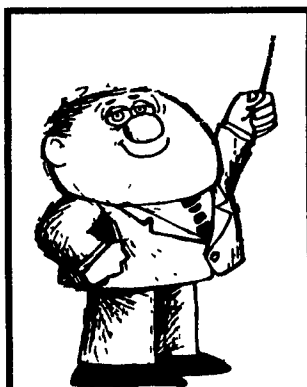
HERSHEY (Dauphin Co.) — Hershey Gardens has announced that its popular tradition of free admission for all moms on Mother's Day continues this year on Sunday, May 11.

Mother's Day visitors can enjoy springtime displays of dogwood trees, azaleas, lilacs, rhododendrons, and tree peonies as they stroll the grounds of Hershey Gardens' 23 acres located on

Hotel Road in Hershey.

Open daily April 1 through October 31, hours are 9 a.m.-6 p.m. April through September; and until 8 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, Memorial Day through Labor Day. Regular admission is \$7 adults, \$6.50 seniors 62+, and \$4 youth 3-15. Children under 3 and members are admitted free.

For more information call (717) 534-3492 or log on to www.hersheygardens.org.



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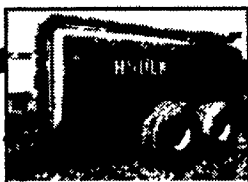
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PIT POWER

Farmers and composters - Here is a breakdown for compost and manure pits and manure piles! Pit Power is bacteria and bacteria feeders that break down solids in manure pits and septic tanks and breakdown compost faster.

Clean out your pit with ease, use Pit Power! One gallon of Pit Power per 10,000 to 20,000 gal of pit volume. Should be repeated approx. 2 times a year! If aeration of the pit is possible, it will help the bacteria to grow and work faster to break down solids. Pit Power's purpose is to add life (bacteria) in the manure, which then is returned to the soil where a bacteria is working. The smell of pit manure is not so strong. Pit Power is a non-toxic product - Life to Feed Life!

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