



Dairy Shows To Highlight Tioga Co. Fair

The 2003 Tioga County Fair will feature three quality dairy shows. The animals will arrive by 3 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 4, the official opening day of the Fair.

The first show, open to 4-H and FFA members, will begin at 9 a.m., Wednesday, Aug. 6. Starting with showmanship and fitting classes for each age group, the show will proceed through all seven dairy breeds, showing in two rings.

Several changes have been made in the open dairy shows. The colored breed show will take place Friday at 11 a.m., while the Holstein and Red and White show will be Saturday morning beginning at 9 a.m. In past years, these shows have alternated yearly between Friday and Saturday. However, due to the length of the shows and the confusion resulting from the alternation, the dairy committee has decided to permanently hold the shows with Colored Breeds on Friday and Holstein and Red/White on Saturday.

Dauphin County 4-H Annual Free Fair

The 4-H Clubs of Dauphin County will conduct their Annual 4-H Fair, Aug. 6-9, at the Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg.

This free 4-H Fair is open to the public, Wednesday from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Thursday and Friday, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon. Parking and admission are free.

The 4-H Fair is an exhibition of 4-H projects. Exhibits include sewing, foods, horticulture, rabbits, cats, dogs, goats, sheep, swine, cattle, and horses. Animals are available for petting. 4-H members and leaders are available to answer questions.

A horse show featuring Hunt Seat, Saddle Seat, Stock Seat, Gaming, Trail, Driving, Reining, Pairs, and County Team will take place Friday beginning at noon and again Saturday, 9 a.m. till noon.

On Thursday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., a series of hands-on learning stations will be available for families. To schedule your family or for more information, contact Penn State Cooperative Extension at (717) 921-8803.

Chester County 4-H Fair

The Romano 4-H Center, 1841 Horseshoe Pike (Route 322 near Route 82), Honey Brook, will be the location for this year's Chester Co. 4-H Fair.

General project exhibits focus on dozen of 4-H projects Chester County young people have been working on this year — rocketry, pet care, photography, sewing, leadership, foods and nutrition, wildlife, computer science, and many more.

Over 100 dairy cows of various breeds competed last year — Holsteins, Jerseys, Guernseys, Linebacks, Ayrshires, and Brown Swiss, to name a few! This year's Dairy Show will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 9.

For further information, contact the Penn State extension office at (610) 696-3500.

Delaware Co. 4-H Summer Fair

Delaware County 4-H invites the public to the Summer Fair on Friday evening, Aug. 8, and Saturday, Aug. 9, at the 4-H Farm and Center, Garrett Williamson Foundation, 395 Bishop Hollow Road, Newtown Square.

The annual country fair draws area families to the 4-H Farm for a series of activities, contests, displays, pony and hay rides, and animal showing. The fair also serves as a showcase for 4-H youth to present their completed projects from the past year.

The fair begins on Friday with a small horse show at 3 p.m., followed by opening ceremonies at 5 p.m. and sheep and pig showmanship.

Special visitors both days of the Fair include the Litterbug from Pennsylvania Resources Council and antique farm equipment presented by George and Shirley Carnog. Saturday's schedule begins at 9 a.m. with livestock showing, silent auction, various contests, a small country store, a used book sale, and a live auction. An educational exhibit on composting will be provided by Penn State Master Gardeners.

Pony and hayrides run regularly from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday. Market animals, hand-raised by youth members at the farm, are sold to bidders at the live auction at 2 p.m. Vegetable, poultry, and educational exhibits remain on display throughout the fair, and food and refreshments are available. The fair closes at 4 p.m.

Land O'Lakes Reports Second Quarter Results

ARDEN HILLS, Minn. — Land O'Lakes, Inc., recently reported its second quarter and year-to-date financial results, while also commenting on individual business unit performance and progress against key strategic initiatives.

For the quarter, the company reported \$1.40 billion in sales and \$44.7 million in net earnings, as compared to \$1.42 billion and \$48.3 million, respectively, in the second quarter of 2002. Year-to-date, sales are \$2.85 billion and net earnings are \$44.3 million, versus \$2.95 billion and \$47.3 million for the same period one year ago. EBITDA (Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation, Amortization, and other items, as defined in the company's bond indenture) are at \$85.5 million through June 30, as compared to \$100.8 million one year ago.

Company officials indicated that, when litigation settlement proceeds are excluded, 2003 first half EBITDA is \$66.3 million, versus \$68.1 million for the first half of 2002. Due to the challenging operating environment, Land O'Lakes revised its full-year EBITDA forecast from \$255 million to \$230 million.

Land O'Lakes reported progress against three key strategic initiatives, as well as positive performance in its branded, value-added, and proprietary businesses and product lines.

Habecker Advocates Dairy Trade Issues With Local Legislators

WASHINGTON, D.C. — With the proposed Free Trade Agreement with Australia and increasing imports of milk proteins concentrates threatening to displace U.S. domestic milk supplies, Nelson Habecker, a dairy farmer from Lancaster, asked his local legislators to support the dairy industry and their dairy-farmer constituents on these crucial issues.

Habecker, chairman of Land O'Lakes Policies and Resolutions Committee, traveled to Washington, D.C., as part of a Land O'Lakes legislative "fly-in" earlier this month. While in the Capitol City, the Land O'Lakes delegation received briefings from national trade organizations, including National Council of Farmer Cooperatives and National Milk Producers Federation, and visited with their legislators. Habecker met personally with Sen. Rick Santorum and Rep. Joe Pitts. He also met with staff members for Sen. Arlen Specter and Rep. Tim Holden.

"Land O'Lakes members do not support a Free Trade Agreement with Australia because it would be a one-way street for dairy and other commodities," Habecker told them. "This agreement would expose U.S. producers to unacceptable increases in imports that would destroy our domestic markets."

Instead, Habecker encouraged the legislators to encourage the Bush Administration to focus resources on completing the new multilateral round of WTO discussions. "Only in this setting can dairy producers expect a reasonable hope of gaining new markets."



Lancaster County dairy producer Nelson Habecker met with Senator Rick Santorum during a Land O'Lakes legislative fly-in to Washington, D.C., in July to advocate support for the dairy industry on dairy trade issues.

Habecker also urged support for legislation in the House and Senate that would restrict MPC imports. "By allowing dairy protein imports (in the form of MPC and casein), we are displacing domestically produced dairy proteins and exacerbating the problem of low milk prices," he said. "The proposed legislation is necessary to close this loophole."

According to Habecker, Land O'Lakes is actively involved in the negotiation of trade subsidy

reductions and market access issues. "Our goals are to support an aggressive reduction of subsidies worldwide and open new markets for the profitable export of U.S. products."

For more information about dairy trade and other legislative issues affecting your dairy farm operation, log onto National Milk Producer Federation's web site, www.nmpf.org, and click on Dairy G.R.E.A.T.

Attorney/Farmer Makes Waste Useful

NICKI LEFEVER

Special Correspondent

ROYERSFORD (Montgomery Co.) — Ned Foley practices law by day and picks up trash by night.

The 40-year-old attorney/farmer and his wife Gail rent Two Particular Acres, a 50-acre crop farm in Royersford.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection issued the first on-farm compost permit to the Foleys in February.

The permit allows Foley to make a practical business of collecting and reusing organic waste.

Foley said his interest in compost started in 1999. The farm he rents was a dump sight for a landscaper's wood chips through an agreement with the land owner.

"It was becoming a nightmare," Foley said. "I would clean it up and more would come. I started researching the compost process and putting it back into the farm and it worked."

In October, 2002, the Pennsylvania Legislature passed regulations for on-farm compost permits and Foley applied for the permit right away to make his practical methods work for more than just himself.

The permit allows Foley to charge a tipping fee, less than it costs at a landfill, to pick up and take in yard waste, food waste, cardboard and manures to be utilized as feed stocks for composting.

His customers include golf courses, horse farms and residents and he is looking to include a grocery store or school cafeteria.

The organic material, after a 12-week decomposition period, is used as a soil fertilizer/conditioner on the farm or sold as mulch or topsoil to the public for \$35 per cubic yard and a delivery charge.

This permit, said Foley, creates two revenue opportunities: a tipping fee for incoming waste and revenue for finished product sales.

The community also benefits, said Foley. The project creates usable products that were originally headed to landfills.

"It is a way for people to reconnect with their trash," Foley said. "When someone brings waste to me they might see it again."

Foley's business didn't happen overnight. The permit took five months to get. The application cost \$500 and took the better part

of a day to fill out. The equipment; a compost turner, screen machine, grinder and roll off truck, cost thousands of dollars, but a grant from DEP helped Foley get going.

It was worth it according to Foley.

"If you build it, they will come," Foley said.

He's had an overwhelming response from the community and his biggest problem is telling people he can't take their waste.

With the permit, Foley is only allowed to take five acres of waste. He started with one acre to make sure he was comfortable with the process.

Foley monitors the sight with the help of trusted friends to make sure he is sticking to the regulations, but has no set hours.

"I pick up waste and have people drop it off by appointment," Foley said.

According to Foley, there are many opportunities for farmers to make money, in fact, he found it helps his farm pay for itself.

But money is not the main issue for Foley, who wants to engage the community with his farm by giving recycling a comeback.

"The whole thing just makes sense," he said.

Maryland Pork Producers To Elect Delegates

EDGEWATER, Md. — Maryland Pork Producers Association (MPPA) President, Jennifer Debnam has announced that the election of the two pork producer delegate candidates for the 2004 Delegation Body of the National Pork Board (Pork Act) will take place at 10 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 23.

This election will be conducted in conjunction with the MPPA

Board of Directors meeting at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium, Maryland. All Maryland pork producers are invited to attend.

The National Pork Board determines the manner in which checkoff monies, generated from the sale of pork, are spent. Checkoff funds can be used for promotion, research, and education.

"Pork checkoff funds have been used successfully to promote 'Pork...The Other White Meat,'" said Debnam.

Any producer, who is a resident of the state and has paid all assessment due, may be considered as a delegate candidate. For further information contact Lynne Hoot, executive director, (410) 956-5771.