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Pa. CREP Doubles In Size

Northern County Sign-Up Began Sept. 2

DAVE LEFEVER

Lancaster Farming Staff

ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.) — During Ag Progress Days, conservation leaders announced that 100,000 more acres in 23 counties in the northern part of the state are eligible for enrollment in the conservation reserve enhancement program (CREP).

Sign-up began Sept. 2 for the 23 counties, which make up Pennsylvania's upper Susquehanna River basin from the central part of the state north to the New York border.

The first CREP was announced three years ago for 20 Pennsylvania counties in the

southcentral part of the state. The expanded CREP includes all 43 Pennsylvania counties in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Pennsylvania's westernmost counties are also set to join the program, possibly within months. Those counties, west of the Allegheny mountains, are in the Ohio River watershed. Eastern Pennsylvania counties, located in the Delaware River watershed, may come on board at some point, according to CREP leaders.

Although the original program got off to "a slow start," officials say the newly expanded and im-

(Turn to Page A30)



Lehigh County 4-H'ers saw good prices for the animals at the county's annual 4-H roundup last Saturday afternoon at the Allentown Fair. Timothy Billig, New Trippoli, second from left, won grand champion hog, purchased by Hatfield Quality Meats for \$625. From left, John Strawbridge; Billig with the 250-pound hog; and Duff George, representing Hatfield, along with George's daughters Lydia and Naomi. See story page A24. Photo by Andy Andrews, editor

Dairy Beef, BQA To 'Marry'

DAVE LEFEVER

Lancaster Farming Staff

PENNSYLVANIA FURNACE (Centre Co.) — Nine-hundred beef producers in Pennsylvania are certified under the state's Beef Quality Assurance program — but only about 10 of them are dairy farmers.

That number needs to change, according to Paul Slayton, executive director of the Pennsylvania Beef Council.

About 50 percent of the beef supply in Pennsylvania comes from dairy cull cows, Slayton has

estimated. And about half of that beef goes for whole cuts, not just hamburger — a strong case for dairy producers making sure their cull cows are providing high-quality carcasses at the packing house.

A first-of-its-kind program in Pennsylvania can help them do it, according to organizers.

Slayton, along with other officials and beef industry experts, launched the Pennsylvania Dairy Beef Quality Assurance (DBQA)

(Turn to Page A33)

Farm Science Review To Show One-Of-A-Kind Yield Monitor Simulator

LONDON, Ohio — All farmers, from large and small operations, can find their niche here at Ohio State University's 2003 Farm Science Review. This year's three-day trade show, Sept. 16-18, features a mix of exhibits that appeal to visitors of all backgrounds.

Farm Science Review visitors will have the opportunity to see a mobile combine yield monitor simulator demonstrating how field conditions can affect grain flow and combine yield monitor sensors.

The Ohio State University Department of Food, Agricultural

and Biological Engineering Department will demonstrate the simulator daily at Alumni Park. This will be the first public appearance for the simulator, which started out as a student design project.

According to Matt Sullivan, Ohio State University Extension

program specialist, there was a need within the industry and the department for a yield monitor simulator. "It started out as an idea of professors Reza Ehsani and Joe Walker to have students in an engineering class design a simulator for their senior project," Sullivan said. "Students did

a design model and when the quarter ended, we started to build a full-scale simulator."

The simulator was developed to be used as a research, education and teaching tool to help people better understand the different components of a combine such as the mass flow sensor, grain moisture sensor, speed sensor and header height sensor.

"You have to understand the complete system from the ground speed to the grain hitting the mass flow sensor to get anything out of it," Sullivan said. "It's very important to understand all aspects of how a yield monitor works and how to calibrate it."

The simulator will be used in

(Turn to Page A27)



DJ and Loretta Duncan grow a corn maze on their Berks County 137-acre dairy farm to promote the dairy industry. Loretta used graph paper and pencil to design the "3-A-Day Real Seal" maze, which covers eight acres and

has more than two miles of twists and turns. See page B2 to read about the Duncans who have a son Luke, 5, and a daughter Jessica, 7, who is the Berks County Li'l Miss. Photo by Preston Whitcraft, Ephrata Review photographer

Inside The Farmer

✓ Lehigh Livestock Roundup Sale page A24.

✓ Dairy District Show page A36.

✓ Plans For Pennsylvania page A38.

✓ 4-H Activities Week page B14.