

PDMP Members Learn How To Develop Better Relationships

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and this decline means there are fewer voices to speak for agriculture. I encourage you to speak to officials and to be more active in professional groups like the PDMP."

Pat Wood outlined steps that individuals can take to improve media relations in her talk, "Creating Positive Ag Media." "Agriculture needs to be more aggressive in presenting a positive image to the public, via the media," said Wood.

During the business session of the meeting, PDMP members learned that:

- Mercer Vu Farms, Inc., has been named the recipient of the 2003 Pacesetter Award sponsored by the Pennsylvania Dairy Stakeholders. The award recognizes those who work to build a positive image of the dairy industry. Alan Bair and Chuck Cruickshank of Dairy Stakeholders presented the Hissong family with a commemorative clock in recognition of the honor.

- The PDMP corn silage research trials have yielded plots of corn silage hybrid across the state. Andy Young of Red Knob Farms reported that results will be posted on the PDMP website in November. Only PDMP members have access to this research database.

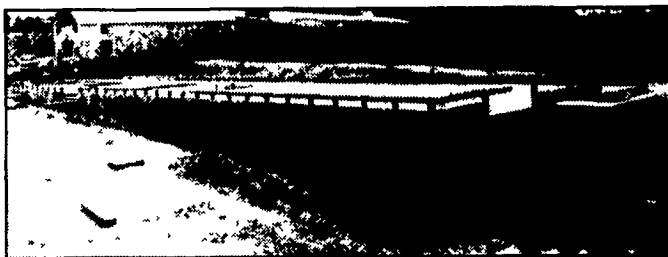
- Pennsylvania Dairy Stakeholders has Business Planning Assistance Program (BPAP) grants of up to \$1,500 available to dairy producers to help pay the professional costs associated with developing a dairy farm business plan. For more information, call (717) 948-6609.

- Penn State will host the North American Collegiate Dairy Challenge in 2004 and 2005. Dr. Larry Muller of Penn State reported that student teams from more than 30 universities are expected to attend. More details can be found at www.dairychallenge.org

- AgChoice Farm Credit will host a bus trip to the World Dairy Expo Oct. 1-4. AgChoice Farm Credit was the exclusive sponsor of the PDMP membership meeting.

The day concluded with a tour of the Mercer Vu Farms new facilities. Members and guests explored the farm's nutrient management facilities, computerized calf barn, and automated double 20 herringbone milking parlor.

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