

Corn Harvest Aid Comes Through

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ers. Hoover said about 20 corn choppers came into the area from places as far away as Perry County to assist. Local harvesters also stepped in to help.

"It has really worked," Hoover said Wednesday morning. "The majority of the (silage corn) is cut. The (phone) lines have been very quiet this morning."

Hoover said there have been some complaints that half the yield was left in the field in certain cases. He estimated that many fields had lesser losses — in the 20-30 percent range.

Some requests are coming in for combines, but the demand is much less than the call for choppers earlier, he said. A few Amish are having high moisture corn put into forage bags, but many are not equipped to handle it.

Hoover said the office opened up Sept. 22, four days after Isabel hit. Some custom harvesters had received 50 to 60 phone calls from farmers needing help, he said.

The Corn Harvest Aid office was able to play a part in reducing crop losses by connecting farmers with harvesters to get the work done in a timely manner. An Amish fund, along with some assistance from Mennonite Disaster Service, was used to finance the aid operation and guarantee

payment to harvesters. Safety during custom harvesting on these farms is a concern because of unfamiliar equipment and because of the potential buildup of deadly silage gases, Hoover pointed out.

Having silos filled in several hours compared to several days or a week can result in a much higher concentration of gases. Harvesting the silage too wet or too dry also contributes to the danger, he said.

The Corn Harvest Aid office worked with Leon Ressler, Lancaster County extension director, in spreading the word.

Ressler said that a few fields in the county are near a total loss. However, many fields yielded well as long as harvesters went at about half their normal pace and were willing to making some head adjustments on the machine.

"It went better than we had feared," Ressler said.

Beside yield losses, one concern is volunteer corn growing up in fields next year, he noted.

For farmers who have livestock and the time to put up extra fencing, turning animals in to harvest the down corn is an option, Ressler said.

PDA Hosts Workshop

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particularly local government.

"There are a lot of decisions (local governments) have to make," said Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff. "We understand that there is a lot of misunderstanding on the different programs. This is a way we could bring the right people together, present information on these issues, and let them (local officials) ask whatever questions they would like to ask."

Wolff also stressed that as the gap between the farming community and the general public increases, events such as this work-

shop provide an opportunity for local officials and educators to gain an understanding of Pennsylvania agriculture.

"It's all about education and being proactive," said Wolff, "just trying to make information available. We are trying to educate the public on them (issues and programs), how they work, and how they interact."

Issues discussed ranged from right-to-farm laws, municipality planning codes, agriculture nuisance issues, farmland preservation, water use, agriculture education, and nutrient management.

Brown Swiss Reigns Supreme At World Dairy Expo

MADISON, Wis. — The second time around proved to be the "one" for Old Mill E Snickerdoodle, selected as World Dairy Expo's 2003 supreme champion.

Snickerdoodle, the grand champion of the Central National Brown Swiss Show, was also the breed champion last year but didn't get the top overall show honors.

Supreme champion was owned by Allen Basler Jr. of Upperville, Va., exhibited by Deanna Bendig, Spun Gold Holsteins, Gettysburg, Pa. Victory Acres Jubilation Emory sired Snickerdoodle and her dam is Old Mill E Cookie. Her 305-day production record is 20,140 pounds of milk, 881 pounds of fat, and 667 pounds of protein.

Reserve supreme honors went to the champion from the Holstein show. Pine-Shelter Cheyenne Lee is a senior 3-year-old

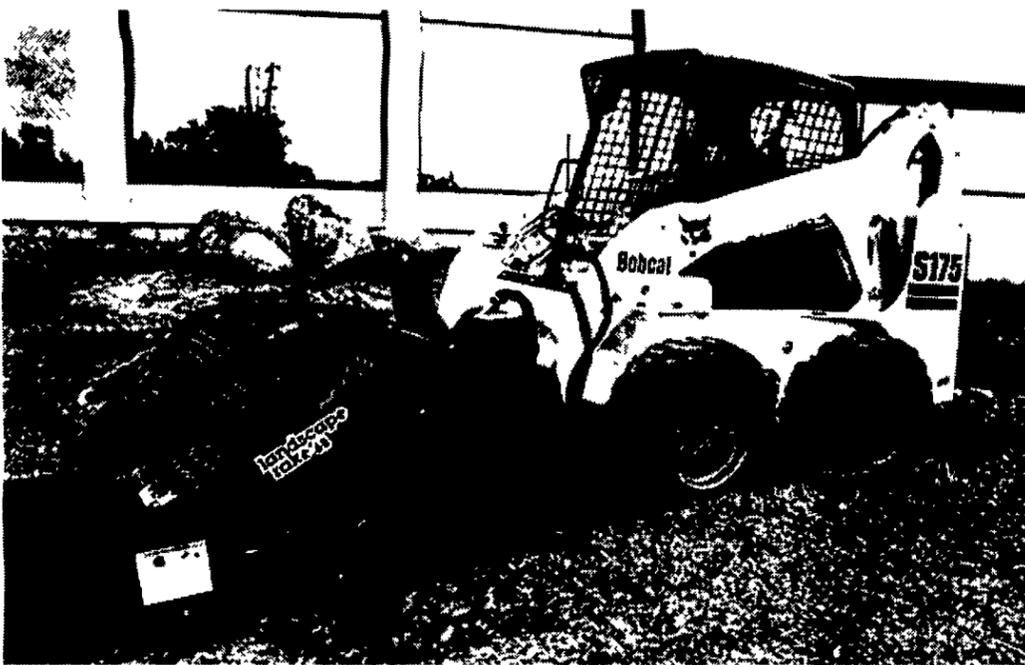
cow exhibited by Molly Rebecca Alberts of Pine Island, Minn. Her 305-day production record is 25,731 pounds of milk, 975 pounds of fat, and 738 pounds of protein. Comestar Lee-Et is her sire and her dam is Pine-Shelter Claudia Emory.

Pine-Shelter Cheyenne Lee was also selected as supreme champion of the junior show during World Dairy Expo. Reserve supreme champion of the junior show was Glenyle Jude Madonna, a Jersey, exhibited by Kyle Natzke of Fond du Lac, Wis.

About 2,000 animals were on grounds for the seven dairy cattle breed shows and four breed sales during World Dairy Expo, Sept. 30 to Oct. 4 at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison, Wis. For complete cattle show results go online at www.worlddairyexpo.com.

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