

Northeast Dairy Challenge Draws 77 Students

COBLESKILL, N.Y. — Seventy-seven students from 10 colleges and universities gathered in Cobleskill, N.Y., for the first Northeast Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge, Oct. 23-25, hosted by The State University of New York (SUNY) at Cobleskill.

Students from New York, Vermont, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Maryland and New Hampshire participated in this innovative three-day event, known as the Dairy Challenge. Working in five-person teams, students assessed all aspects of farm management and presented their recommendations to a panel of judges.

One of the Dairy Challenge's goals was to introduce students from the participating universities to one another and encourage

them to work together, to benefit the dairy industry's future.

"Putting students with different skills from different schools on a team to work together in finding solutions is a very important learning experience," stated committee chair Don Rogers of Farm Credit. "On today's dairies it takes a team with outside professionals working together to make a difference. Students need to practice teamwork."

The 2004 Northeast Dairy Challenge is scheduled to take place at the University of Vermont. To become a sponsor of the Northeast Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge or to obtain information about the Challenge, contact Sheila Marshman, Morrisville State College at (315) 684-6106 or marshmsa@morrisville.edu; or

Barry Putnam, Genex Cooperative at (800) 333-9007 ext. 6120 or bputnam@crinet.com.

The Northeast Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge is under the guidance and support of the North American Intercollegiate

Dairy Challenge (NAIDC), which was established in April 2002 as a management contest to incorporate evaluation of all aspects of a specific dairy business. NAIDC is fully funded through contributions from the dairy in-

dustry. Penn State will host the third annual North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge. For more information about NAIDC, visit www.dairychallenge.org or call (608) 224-0400.

Farmer: Get Off Defense, Get On Offense

MADISON, Wis. — Sixth-generation farmer Trent Loos is encouraging producers to stop defending agriculture against activist groups and anti-ag organizations.

"It is time we stop defending agriculture and get on the offense in food production. Instead of waiting for these domestic terror-

ists to destroy our farms and ranches, we need to take action," said Loos. "We need to let consumers know that what we do is vital to our national security. We are not going to let these well-funded radicals run us out of business through frivolous lawsuits, attacks on our personal property and slanderous mes-

sages to the consumers. It is time we give them the wake-up call they have been waiting for."

Loos was slated to address dairy leaders from across Wisconsin Dec. 4 at the fourth annual Dairy Business Association Business Conference in Madison. "Building the Power to Change" was the theme of the two-day event Dec. 3-4.

The conference agenda featured panels and speakers addressing agricultural modernization protection in the state of Wisconsin.

The conference was organized to help industry leaders and producers learn media communication skills, discuss environmental and legal issues, and network with fellow dairy producers from across the state.

PLNA Magazine Wins 'Best Of Show'

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery magazine recently received the 2003 Best of Show award from the International Association of Business Communicators-Harrisburg Chapter during its IABC Capital Awards

Gala in Harrisburg.

The bimonthly-magazine, published by the Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery Association (PLNA), also claimed the 'Gold' award in the category of "Magazines — Four or More Color."

Group To Shape Future Of York County Agriculture

YORK (York Co.) — A new group, the Future of Agriculture (FOA) in York County, is seeking volunteers who want to help shape farming in the county in the next several years.

The group is a new alliance of farmers, citizens, and representatives from various organizations who are concerned about agriculture in the county.

According to County Extension Director Jeff Myers, the group is recruiting members to a countywide task force. It will hold an organizational meeting at 7:15 p.m., Dec. 15, at the extension offices at Pleasant Acres.

Myers said FOA has several goals. In the short run, the group hopes to provide community support for local farms, resolve immediate individual farm concerns, and increase the public's understanding of agriculture's role in the county.

According to Myers, FOA grew out of a need to encourage farmers who are uncertain about the future of farming. Uncertainty about investment decisions they need to remain competitive, making them more likely in the long run to go out of business.

For more details about FOA, contact Myers at the Penn State Cooperative Extension office in York County, (717) 840-7408.

Ag Officials To Announce Proposal

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) will announce proposed changes to the Water Quality Improvement Act of 1998 during the Maryland Farm Bureau's Annual Meeting in Ocean City, Maryland.

The roll out of the proposals, which are intended to make the law more workable for farmers and more effective at protecting the environment, is the next step in a process begun earlier this year with a "state-of-the-science" briefing in July and a summit hosted in August by Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.

The MDA's Assistant Secretary for the Office of Resource Conservation Royden N. Powell, III will present the department's proposals for improving the Nutrient Management Program from 10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 8.

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