

# Lancaster DHIA Survives Growing Pains

**CHARLENE M. SHUPP  
ESPENSHADE**  
*Lancaster Farming Staff*

**SMOKETOWN** (Lancaster Co.) — Lancaster DHIA members gathered at the Good 'N' Plenty Restaurant Tuesday for the annual meeting. As noted by Steve Hershey, president of Lancaster DHIA, the year marked an "interesting one" for the organization.

"A wise man once said, 'save me from an interesting life,'" said Hershey. "An interesting day is usually a day that does not go well... This has been an interesting year at Lancaster DHIA. An interesting year, however, is not all bad. It has been a strong year."

Lancaster DHIA reported that 2003 was an expansion year with the addition of 588 herds; the inclusion of service in Bradford, Tioga, Susquehanna, Blair, and Bedford counties; and the in-

house processing of reports.

As Hershey noted, "expansion is expensive."

For the 2003 budget year, Lancaster DHIA experienced a loss, which is credited to the expansion project that took place this year.

Rodney Denlinger, treasurer, stressed that he was not concerned over the losses.

"Am I particularly concerned about the loss? We planned on it. Is it going to happen again? No. The budget this year calls for a surplus at the end of the year," said Denlinger.

"While I don't like to see a negative financial statement, we did have a successful year. We achieved our goals. Next year we are going to achieve them again."

Because of expansion efforts, Lancaster DHIA experienced a growth of 588 herds, bringing the total to 2,809 herds on test in 2003. Average number of cows on

test for 2003 is 162,711 cows, an 11 percent increase from 2002.

With the increases in herds and numbers, Hershey stresses the focus in 2004 needs to be service to the herds that they serve.

In addition to the expansion in herds and service territory, May marked the beginning of in-house printing.

Hershey noted that "the technology finally caught up with the dream," and since its implementation it has gone very smoothly.

Lancaster DHIA is excited about the upcoming year.

"I am excited about the future," said Jay Mylin, manager. "I know that we had some glitches in financial end this year. But, the growth we actually budgeted for, and we knew it was going to be a tight year. We are in a positive situation now and we are going to have a great year."



**2003 Lancaster DHIA production winners, from left, Nevin Horning, Denise Horning, Jennifer Lawrence, Arlyn Musser, Pam Gable, Don Gable, Nancy Herr, and Steve Herr.**

Several herds were recognized for their production at the meeting. High production breed awards went to Ayrshire, Don and Pam Gable, Elverson, with 19,793 pounds of milk; Brown Swiss, Vision Genetics, Mount

wood, with 17,265 pounds of milk; Holstein, Spring Valley Farm, Manheim, with 32,649 pounds; and Jersey, Tol-Je-So Farm, Port Deposit, Md., with 19,813.

The high protein herd award was given to Nevin Horning, Li-titz.

The low somatic cell count (SCC) award winner was Steven Herr of New Providence.

Lancaster DHIA also recognized Tom Lapp, Gap, for his service on the board of directors.

Joy, with 25,268 pounds of milk; Guernsey, Millie and Jim Widman, Kirk-

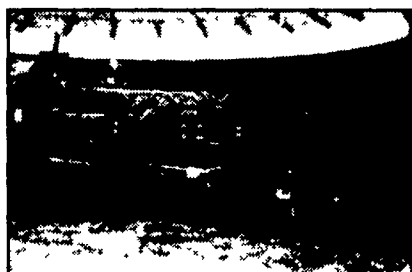
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Tom Lapp, center was recognized for his service to the board at the meeting. From left, Jay Mylin, general manager and Steve Hershey, board president.

## Number Of Infected Trees Declines

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Secretary of Agriculture Dennis C Wolff recently announced that the Department of Agriculture has almost eliminated the Plum Pox Virus (PPV), which was first identified attacking stone fruit trees in south central Pennsylvania in the fall of 1999.

"We are thrilled that over a four-year period, PPV numbers have decreased by 97 percent, with only 11 detections in 2003," said Wolff. "The numbers had reached 399 in 2000."

Woff said, "This year, we increased our quarantine zone to include a small portion of Menallen and Butler townships in Adams County where the virus was discovered this summer. In doing this, we hope to contain the spread and eliminate this virus once and for all."

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