



❖ FARM FORUM ❖

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tion to both the farm and non-farm public. I believe that key to agricultural education is starting early so future generations of agriculturists are not hampered by the policies of the uninformed. If we wait for today's youth to grow up, it may indeed be too late.

This summer, I unveiled a multifaceted agriculture education initiative designed to enhance awareness of school-aged children about the importance of agriculture for the economy, community, and life. As part of that plan, I appointed an agriculture education coordinator, Dr. MeeCee Baker, to oversee the program and work with educational institutions, agricultural education teachers, school districts, government officials, and others to get agriculture into classrooms and raise awareness of agriculture in society.

One of the cornerstones of the plan was unveiled in November when the Department of Agriculture launched www.marketplace-forthemind.com, a groundbreaking agricultural education resource for teachers, students, the farm community, and the public. The Website, created through a joint effort between the departments of agriculture and education, is designed to help teachers fulfill state education standards for environment and ecology and science and technology.

In addition to curriculum materials, educators can access information for grants for classroom supplies and equipment, as well as opportunities appropriate for field trips. The resource library provides students with information for school projects, scholarships, higher education, and careers. Moreover, the general public benefits from up-to-date

agricultural information, event listings, and current issues in agriculture.

This site marks the beginning of a new approach to education and awareness about agriculture in the commonwealth. As secretary, I am committed to sharing my knowledge about farming and agriculture with school children across Pennsylvania. In the classroom, we take an interactive and hands-on approach to learning. We show students how to make butter. They can taste foods and learn about nutrition. By bringing agriculture to students, they see its impact on their daily lives and are more apt to remember the lessons learned. Through November, I have taught lessons to more than 200 students and I will continue monthly visits to schools throughout the New Year.

All of us — students, consumers, teachers, farmers, government leaders, and the agribusiness community — must work together to educate, and learn, about the importance of agriculture to our community, our economy, and our world. I am confident that through education, agriculture will continue its strong tradition in Pennsylvania.

— Dennis C Wolff
Pa. Secretary Of Agriculture
Harrisburg

Attend Milk Hearing Jan. 12

WHITNEYVILLE (Tioga Co.) — The next regional milk hearing will be Jan. 12 here at the Tioga County fairgrounds at 10 a.m.

According to the National Family Farm Coalition, The Progressive Agriculture Organization (Pro Ag), and The Family Farm Defenders, the milk hearing will be patterned after the hearing Nov. 17 at the Keystone College.

Dairy farmers, consumers, and local business people are urged to testify at the hearing. Anyone interested in testifying should call Pro Ag at (570) 833-5776 or (814) 367-2788.

"We are encouraging dairy farmers to testify and illustrate how low milk prices have affected their operations," said Arden Tewksbury, manager, Pro Ag. "Also, dairy farmers are urged to offer their suggestions on how to rectify the situations. Local agribusiness people are asked to illustrate how low milk prices are affecting their business. Consumers are urged to attend the hearing in support of their local dairy farmers."

Senator Arlen Specter and Senator Rick Santorum will have aides attending the hearing. Congressman John Peterson's office will also be represented.

Lunch will be served by personnel from the fairgrounds at a minimal cost. In case of bad weather, the hearing will be on Wednesday, Jan. 14.

The fairgrounds are located just off Rt. 6, halfway between Mansfield and Wellsboro.

Testimony given at the hearing will be forwarded to the National Family Farms Coalition office in Washington, D.C. Anyone that testifies will have 10 minutes to deliver their testimony. Pro Ag urges each one to submit 15 copies of their testimony.

Here are several dairy farmers who have testified:
Kurk Rhone, Starruca; Linda Boyan, Berwick; Donna Hall, Lairdsville; and Brenda Cochran, Westfield. Also, Gerald and Tera Carlin with their children from Meshoppen; Shane Mack, Susquehanna County Dairy Princess, Kingsley; and Julian Reiks, Kathy Yeaguer, Jana McClure Berry, Ken Dibble, and Fred Matthews from New York state. Also testified Sherri Boyanowski, Laceyville; Gordon Wood, Mansfield; and Eric Place and John Tewksbury, Meshoppen.

Other dairy farmers submitted testimony but time ran out before they could testify.

Lancaster Extension Offers Dairy Herdbook Clinics

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — This December and January, Lancaster County Extension will again offer free, on-farm "Herdbook Clinics" to Lancaster area dairy herds on DHIA test. These confidential clinics can help identify strengths and weaknesses of your dairy operation, as well as provide suggestions for improving profitability and production on the farm.

- Participants will be provided:
- A DAIRYMETRICS comparison of your herd's data to state and local averages;
 - Records analysis and graphs of your herd's progress using PC Dart software; and
 - Management suggestions based on herd record analysis.

To sign up for a clinic, call (717) 394-6851.

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Yield leader in this maturity
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