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Appreciate your common sense philosophy."



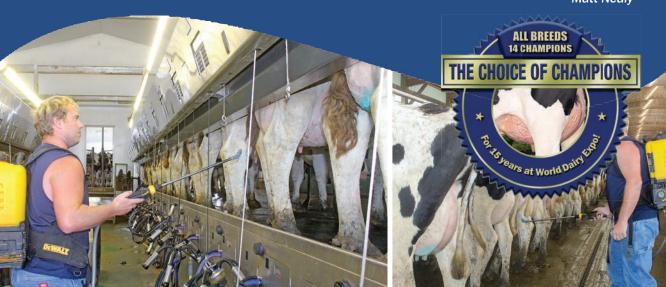
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- Brad Palmer, Pigeon Cove Farms, Warfordsburg, PA 440 cows, 94 lbs, 140,000 SCC



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Cow vets offer definitive info about their work

By DIETER KRIEG **Farmshine Editor**

ELIZABETHTOWN, Pa. — The Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association, headquartered here in the northwestern corner of Lancaster County, was quick to voice its displeasure over Farmshine's initial reporting of two men being arrested and promptly sent to prison. They considered the article very one-sided and want it to be known that crossing over into "their territory" is not something to be taken lightly. It's serious.

A well-known and highly respected veterinarian in Maryland set the tone on the PVMA's behalf:

"I would know how to take out a person's appendix or set a broken bone on a child," he explained. But I'm a veterinarian. I am not licensed to practice medicine on human beings and if I did so, I would be throwing away my career. I would be arrested."

According to the PVMA, that's the heart of the issue facing Rusty Herr of Oxford, Pa. and Ethan Wentworth of Airville, Pa. both of whom are incarcerated for allegedly stepping out of bounds and into the veterinary medicine field. In doing so, they stepped on thousands of toes. "Every veterinarian in the country was insulted by that one-sided initial report that appeared in Farmshine," declared one caller.

The PVMA's mission statement "speaks" to what their members do after spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to receive their proper education and training: "Dedicated to ensuring the vitality of the veterinary profession by promoting excellence in veterinary medicine, advancing animal health and welfare, and protecting and enhancing human

Bill Crenshaw, PVMA secretary/treasurer, reached out to Farmshine by way of a letter and a follow-up phone call.

"We're disappointed that Sherry Bunting did not reach out to the PVMA for comment for her article on the two individuals accused of practicing veterinary medicine without a license," the letter began. (Sherry did reach out; but was unsuccessful with her attempt and had a deadline pushing her to finish).

"This is an animal welfare and food animal safety concern because of pharmaceuticals that we use," Crenshaw added calmly. He pointed out the distinctions between a proturn to page 18



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Supreme Court appeal is next step for Herr, Wentworth

Commonwealth Court denies immediate release, unseals docket

By SHERRY BUNTING Special for Farmshine

HARRISBURG, Pa. — It has been three weeks since Rusty Herr and Ethan Wentworth of NoBull Solutions, LLC were arrested on April 10 and 11 and separately incarcerated in Lancaster and York County Prisons — their respective counties of residence in Pennsylvania.

A motion for immediate release has been heard and denied by the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania.

"The Commonwealth Court failed to correct their error, so we are taking the case directly to the Supreme Court," said Robert Barnes, Esq. in a *Farmshine* interview after the decision. Judge Michael Wojcik also unsealed the docket in a separate decision.

He heard oral arguments for the motion filed by Barnes Law LLP on behalf of Herr and Wentworth as well as the answer to this request by the Department of State (DOS) Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs (BPOA) on April 29, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. via WebEx video conferencing.

According to the docket 325-MD-2021, the BPOA opposed the motion, stating that on May 16, 2023, the court had adjudicated NoBull Solutions in contempt of a previous order dated Nov. 30, 2021, related to enforcement of an investigative subpoena, with conditions for NoBull to purge its contempt through a monetary civil penalty, and that failure to purge

may result in issuance of a warrant for their arrest and incarceration.

NoBull Solutions did not show cause why they should not be held in contempt on Nov. 30, 2021, did not appear or comply, and on May 16, 2023, the enforcement order was made absolute requiring NoBull to "purge its contempt," including providing the BPOA with the name and address of its custodian of records as well as the names and addresses of all members, managers, and other persons who direct its activities.

"At no point during these proceedings has Mr. Wentworth and Mr. Herr challenged BPOA's allegations that they are the principal members of NoBull Solutions and are directing its activities or made any attempt to purge the Court's finding of contempt," the docket reads

The bottomline here is that Herr and Wentworth are making a stand for the right to assist farms in reproductive management. Through the 15 phone calls from customers, it's clear they believe ultrasound makes breeding service more effective and efficient for their small farms that are not in a position to be blessed by the law's exception for hired employees doing this work on larger farms.

Dairy farmers have continued to call into this reporter, explaining that both men, and NoBull collectively, help them be better managers and learn to do more breeding work on their own, even when it means they are purchasing fewer services from NoBull.

Fully 12 of the 15 calls to-date affirmed they maintain a relationship and regular herd checks with their licensed veterinarians and gave clear examples of how the use of ultrasound with breeding service through NoBull had minimized their waste of costly semen, improved their knowledge, and provided information they needed for timely breeding and culling decisions made on the farm in be-

tween regular herd checks.

At issue for Herr and Wentworth, according to Barnes Law, are the Constitutional rights in the handling of the contempt enforcement. With the docket unsealed, a paper trail – including the state's request for a default judgment that had been denied in 2021 – have been unsealed.

The initiation of these previously sealed contempt proceedings began in 2021, some 18 months after the 2020 Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association complaint that had requested contempt charges be pursued by the DOS, alleging both men as principals in NoBull Solutions LLC were continuing to practice veterinary medicine without a license, continuing to do and direct ultrasounding of livestock in connection with their breeding and reproductive management services

At this juncture, it appears that Herr and Wentworth will either have their appeal for immediate release heard by the State Supreme Court or serve out their 30 days, whichever happens first.

Then, the real work may begin. Is there a middle ground for these services in conjunction with breeding? Is the assistance providing a level playing field in a low-margin, highly competitive dairy industry where scale affords some farms the avenues to accomplish these services via employees who are proficient in ultrasound vs. smaller farms paying an independent technician for the same.

Since the Department of State maintained in a prior interview that State Veterinary Board adjudications clarify the law with the authority granted them by the legislature, and that the legislature is the body to consult for the exceptions, there's much here to wade through from the State Capitol to the Administrative Boards and Offices to the Commonwealth Court.

'Accelerate' conference tailored for interns

JUNEAU, Wis. — A one-day event presented by the Professional Dairy Producers® (PDP) will give agriculture sector interns the tools they need to excel in today's workforce. PDP Accelerate is set for July 24, in Madison, Wisconsin, with a full day of interactive programming to help attendees stand out from the crowd with the skills they need to shine in today's agriculture careers.

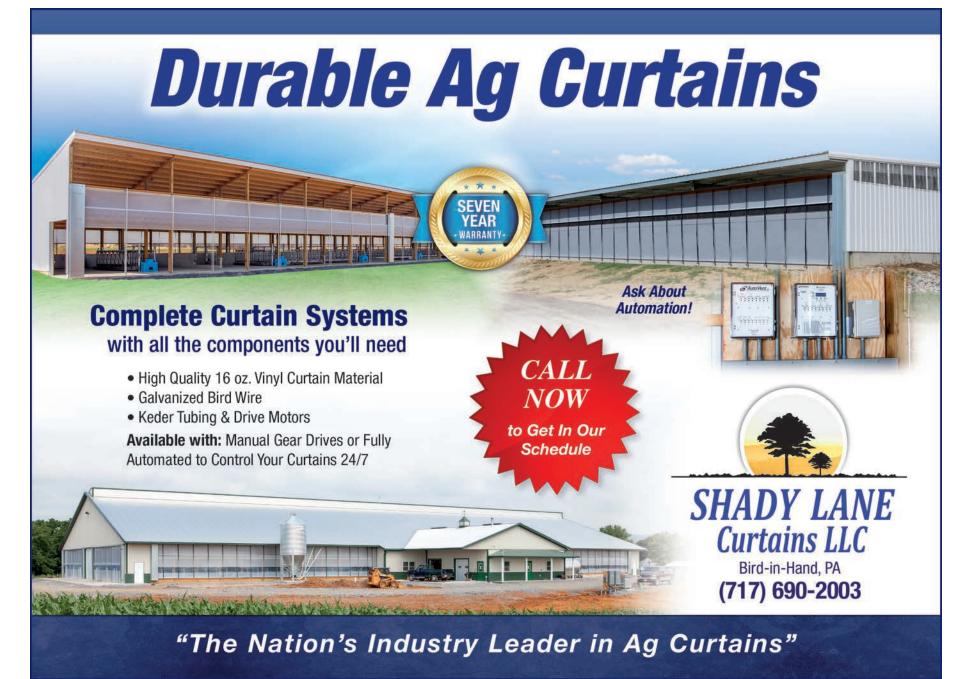
Agricultural employers who incorporate PDP Accelerate into their summer internship program will not only enhance the intern experience and demonstrate their commitment to nurturing talent, but also provide students with a renewed vigor during the final portion of the internship. PDP Accelerate is an opportunity to foster a culture of learning while aiding in training a pipeline of skilled professionals for the future of the agricultural sector.

"We're thrilled to offer employers the chance to invest in their interns' growth and development through PDP Accelerate," said Amber Cafferty, marketing and development coordinator at PDP. "This event isn't just about learning; it's about empowering the next generation of agricultural leaders to excel in today's rapidly evolving landscape."

PDP Accelerate will be facilitated by Michael Hoffman, founder and owner of Igniting Performance, Inc., a Dallas-based company that specializes in the skills of sales, customer loyalty and leadership. Hoffman will combine hands-on learning, peer networking and interactive skill practice to ensure interns build the skills they need to excel after college.

Interns will emerge from PDP Accelerate armed with the ability to initiate meaningful conversations, leverage technology effectively, exude confident body language, navigate diverse team dynamics, solicit and implement constructive feedback, and expand their professional networks — all essential attributes for success in the modern workforce.

Learn more about PDP Accelerate and register interns by visiting www.pdpw.org or calling 800-947-7379.



In wake of Tennessee's successful whole milk bill, Pennsylvania House Ag Cmte. tries again U.S. Senate stalled at 17 whole milk sponsors

On Tues., April 30th – just two weeks after Tennessee Governor Bill Lee officially signed into law the Volunteer State's version of "whole milk in schools" legislation, SB 1914 – the Pennsylvania House Ag Committee unanimously passed for the second time in four years Rep. John Lawrence's HB 997.

Tennessee's successful whole milk bill aims to get around the Feds' prohibition by serving whole milk with dispensers that are separate from the school lunch line. "It's separate from your lunch service, but it's always available," sponsor Rep. Mark Cochran told the Tennessee House K-12 Subcommittee.

The Pennsylvania bill establishes state's rights with a completely in-state deal. HB 997 would simply allow Pennsylvania schools to provide Pennsylvania whole milk to Pennsylvania schoolchildren, paid for with Pennsylvania tax dollars.

Before the Ag Committee vote Tuesday, Lawrence said: "The legislation is not a mandate. It does not require any school district to do anything, but it would provide that if a school district wanted to do it, to provide whole milk and whole flavored milk to students, they would be able to."

He highlighted support among dairy farmers and among students "who like to drink great tasting milk. This is about providing healthful whole milk to a generation of children that are frankly being raised on energy drinks and Gatorade. They are not healthy for the development of children, unlike MILK."

Pa. House Ag Republican Chair Dan Moul pointed to the successful Tennessee bill in his comments. "Unfortunately, we won't be number one," he said. "But I don't mind being number two to get this done and hopefully send a message to the Feds that whole milk is good for our kids," he said.

Rep. Clint Owlett who has worked with Lawrence on the measure said he printed off milk consumption data that morning, which speaks to the unintended consequences of taking whole milk out of our schools. The really sharp decline is staggering, and it really started in 2009-10 when this happened. One way we can help our farmers is by realizing this is a product our kids need. They want whole milk. We believe this is a state issue "he said

Pa. House Ag Committee Democratic Chair Eddie Pashinski had this to say: "The one major thing that's missing for many of our children today is we do not promote milk enough. When I watch television, what do I see? I see almond milk commercials 9000 times.. but the bottomline is you can't find a healthier liquid than whole milk."

Next step is the Pa. House floor – again. However, like in the U.S. Congress, getting whole milk bills past certain stodgy Sena-

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tors and onto a Senate floor has been the stonewall.

In the 2022-23 legislative session, Lawrence's whole milk bill had passed Pennsylvania's full House 196 to 2, but the Senate refused to consider it, fearing economic reprisals from USDA.

Thompson, Stabenow roll out farm bill work

Chairman G.T. Thompson (R-Pa.) and Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) rolled out their respective House and Senate Ag Committee frameworks for the overdue farm bill on May 1. Thompson set committee markup for May 23. Stabenow calls her framework a bipartisan farm bill that's 'ready to go', but did not schedule committee markup. The current farm bill extension maintains programs through Sept. 30 and Dec. 31, 2024.

Most notable in the rollouts may be that both Chairs have agreed on Thompson's idea to bring the supplemental conservation, authorized by the Inflation Reduction Act in under the farm bill, which had been a sticking point previously. Thompson has long argued that adding the IRA funds to the farm bill baseline bakes it in for future farm bills. In return, it appears Chair Stabenow wants those funds earmarked for "climate smart" projects. The Senate version changes some EQIP definitions and would direct more EQIP funding to methane reduction, which is interesting considering cows cycle carbon, so their methane is not new, but net neutral.

Thompson's conservation framework focuses on financial and technical assistance to address natural resource concerns such as soil health and erosion, water quality and quantity and uses voluntary incentive-based through reallocation of the IRA conservation dollars while expanding covered conservation practices "without adding new climate sideboards."

On dairy programs, the DMC tier one coverage cap looks to go from 5 million pounds of annual enrolled production to 6. Production history updates are also included, along with an increased discount on premiums for farms that enroll in all 5 years through 2029. Language directing USDA to conduct mandatory surveys of dairy plants every two years to estimate the average costs of manufacturing dairy products (i.e., "make allowance") is included in the title by title Senate version.

Class III milk futures up 4th straight week

Class III milk futures moved higher across the board for the fourth consecutive week, while Class IV was again mixed, moving higher in the front months and lower on distant months. May through Sept. 2024 Class III milk contracts made the biggest move higher, up fully 50 to 60 cents from a week ago.

On Wednesday, May 1, the Class III milk futures for the next 12 months (May24 through Apr25) averaged \$18.50, up 54 cents from the previous Wednesday.'s 12 month average that had included the rock-bottom April 2024 contract going off the board in the mid-\$15s. Class IV futures averaged \$20.64, down 7 cents from a week ago.

All spot dairy product prices notably higher

All dairy product prices moved higher this week on the CME spot market, especially for butter, cresting the \$3 mark and barrel cheese rallying big to surpass blocks by nearly a dime. On Wed., May 1, the 40-lb block Cheddar price was pegged at \$1.76575/lb up 3 cents from the previous Wednesday with zero loads trading; 500-lb barrels were at \$1.8550/lb up 9 cents on the week, zero loads traded. Dry whey gained a half-penny, pegged at 37 1/2 cents/lb with zero loads trading.

In the Class IV sector, Butter posted a 4-cent rally in active trade Wednesday, pegged at \$3.0050/lb, with 7 loads changing hands. Grade A nonfat dry milk gained back last week's 2-penny loss, pegged at \$1.1250/lb, 5 loads traded.

April pegs lowest Class III price in years, Protein sinks to \$0.83/lb, Butterfat 4x that at \$3.33/lb

USDA announced what is the lowest Class III price in years at \$15.50 for April. That's 84 cents below March and \$3.02 lower than a year ago. The April protein price sank to 83 cents/lb while butterfat increased to \$3.33/lb. Solids nonfat and other solids were lower in April compared with March as well.

April Class II and IV milk advanced 11 and 2 cents in March at \$21.23 and \$20.11, respectively. Both were \$1.00 higher than the Class I base price mover for April, adding depooling woes to Federal Milk Marketing Orders with ample Class III utilizations.

In fact, one can make the argument that if the proposed increases in make allowances are in the USDA preliminary rule the industry anxiously awaits, it is the cheese-heavy regions that will suffer most, and stand to gain the least from the balancing act of increased Class I differentials. A back-breaking situation in today's market.

Farm Bureau opposes any make allowance increases until mandatory audited surveys are conducted. Even then, the question remains for future hearings where to set the processor credit once confidently estimated. Overshooting it encourages investment in plants that can beat the margin, even if the marketplace sends different price and product signals. Already, we see major investment in cheese manufacturing coming on line and planned, while spot cheese and Class III prices have only now turned around for the past few weeks from the \$15s to the 18s on the futures board. The ebb and flo of relatively new cheese export markets has a much greater influence today.

March All-Milk \$20.70, DMC margin \$9.65

USDA announced the U.S. average All-Milk price for March at \$20.70, up 10 cents from February and down 40 cents from a year ago. The DMC margin for March is \$9.65/cwt, up 21 cents from February and 15 cents above the highest margin coverage level of \$9.50 per cwt. This is the highest DMC margin level since Dec. 2022, when it was figured at \$9.76 based on a \$4 higher All-Milk price and feed cost at the time. However, the DMC margin for March did not reflect what dairy producers were paid in much of the country, and when April prices and margins are announced on May 31, the divergence will be significant for FM-MOs with considerable Class III sales — made worse by depooling of the higher value Class II and IV milk that is running \$1 to \$2 above the Class I base mover price for a few months now.

While the U.S. average was 10 cents higher despite butterfat being slightly lower, the Pennsylvania All-Milk price, while still above the U.S. average, was 20 cents lower than in February, even though butterfat was steady. This reflects the impact of Class II and IV depooling, increasing the drag from current low-price Class III utilization on FMMO blends, especially in western Pa. within Order 33. For farmers in the Upper Midwest, the All-Milk price at \$19.10 for Wisconsin and \$19.50 for Minnesota, lagged the national average by \$1.60 and \$1.20.





Farmshine Editorials



"The greatest tyrannies are always perpetuated in the name of the noblest of causes."

— Thomas Paine

'Only members can vote.' What in the world is going on?!

"Only members can vote!" the president announced as ballots were being distributed.

By Dieter Krieg Farmshine Editor

Oh my! I thought to myself, that's surely not the American way ... not the "new" American way, I mean. Members only? What in the world!?

But no protests were heard. Everyone was wide awake (not "woke") and definitely okay with Tom's simple instructions.

Of course, voting instructions could have been even simpler by following the political

model hustled by our federal government since January of 2021 ... if not before. Anybody can vote; no matter who, no matter how many borders they've crossed or people they've murdered.

So, I envisioned the scenario, had Tom swung open the doors and yelled for all to hear: "Anyone can vote! Come one, come all! Come now! If you can't, we'll fetch you by bus, taxi or Uber. Or just mail your vote in. Do it multiple times, to make sure your vote isn't missed! Got a dead relative? Vote for him or her too! Illegal immigrants and hard-

ened criminals ... come cast your vote. And, by the way, ballot harvesting has no specific time frame. Vote anytime. We're inclusive of anyone and everyone, no matter where you're from or what you've done. We are not "members only"!

Such a scenario would be senseless, irresponsible and irreversibly detrimental to any small group.

And it's even more senseless, reckless and permanently damaging for an entire country to abandon its borders, principles, traditions, integrity, identity and so on.

Thank you, Tom, for inspiring an important thought for all of humanity. I salute and thank all those who are guided by common sense and common values, respect, merit, like-mindedness in life and goals. To not have some kind of "members only" posture is to invite chaos.

Thank you all for not caving into a totally misguided frenzy of "wokeness" which history will surely re-define one day as "brokenness." It's already happening.

Veterinarian's book has student aid as prime goal

HARRISBURG, Pa. — 10 help support students who are pursuing future careers in the dairy industry, Dr. Charlie Gardner, a former dairy veterinarian and consultant who works with many Pennsylvania dairy farm families, has published a book with proceeds now supporting the Dairy Excellence Foundation.

Titled *The Blessed Life of a Cow Doctor*, the book features memoir-style stories from Dr. Gardner's time as a dairy veterinarian. With every \$25 donation to the Dairy Excellence Foundation, individuals will receive a copy of the book and proceeds will support the Foundation's youth development programs.

"Over the years, my interest in storytelling has only grown stronger. This is what led me to write a book about my life and career as a dairy veterinarian. I've included a lot of true stories and reflections, and I could think of no better way to support the fine work of the Dairy Excellence Foundation than through the proceeds from this book," said Dr. Gardner, the author of the book and a consultant who works with the Center for Dairy Excellence.

The Dairy Excellence Foundation's youth development programs include free Dairy Leaders of Tomorrow courses and curriculum for high school agriculture teachers, hands-

on educational experiences for high school students, scholarship opportunities, on-farm internships for college students, and more.

"The Foundation's youth development programs have reached more than 25,000 students last year, and these programs make a lasting impact on students who are eager to make a difference in the dairy industry," added Dr. Gardner. "The Foundation works to ensure our youth have opportunities and a path forward to pursue careers they are passionate about in the Pennsylvania agriculture industry."

To read an excerpt from the memoir and

make a \$25 donation to the Foundation to receive a copy of Dr. Gardner's book, visit www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/book-donation or call 717-346-0849. Books will be shipped approximately four to six weeks after making a donation.

Established in 2010, the Dairy Excellence Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, tax deductible organization that is Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) approved. Through creative programming, career preparation resources, and internship and scholarship opportunities, the Foundation helps students of all ages discover the world of dairy farming.

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Auction Guide

MAY 4, 9:30 a.m. Public Real Estate Auction, Blairs Mills, Pa. Sale co-managed by Ron J. & Ron S. Gilligan & David C. Zentner.

MAY 4, 11:30 a.m. Spring Production All-Breeds Dairy Sale, Hosking Sales, New Berlin, N.Y. Sale managed by Hosking Sales.

MAY 8, 10:30 a.m. Dairy Cow & Heifer Sale, New Holland Sales Stables, New Holland, Pa. Sale managed by New Holland Sales Stables.

MAY 11, 11 a.m. 2024 Midwest Revue Royale, Wooster, Ohio. Sale managed by Modern Associates.

MAY 16, 7:15 p.m. Alson & Minerva Martin Herd Dispersal, Brubacker's Quality Dairy Sales, Shippensburg, Pa. Sale managed by Brubacker's Quality Dairy Sales.

MAY 17, 4 p.m. Special Driving & Draft Horse Sale, New Holland Sales Stables, New Holland, Pa. Sale man-

aged by New Holland Sales Stables.

MAY 18, 11 a.m. Lakevue Farm Complete Reg. Holstein Herd Dispersal, Huntingdon, Pa. Sale managed by Fraley Auction Company.

MAY 25, 11 a.m. Special Riding Horse Sale, Penns Valley Livestock, Centre Hall, Pa. Sale managed by Penns Valley Livestock.

MAY 31, 7:30 a.m. Horse Consignment Sale, Penns Valley Livestock, Centre Hall, Pa. Sale managed by Penns Valley Livestock.

JUNE 20, Special 12 Year Anniversary Dairy Cow & Heifer Sale Brubacker's Quality Dairy Sales, Shippensburg, Pa. Sale managed by Brubacker's Quality Dairy Sales.

JULY 6, PHA Summer Sensation Sale & Picnic, Somerset, Pa. Sale managed by Pa. Holstein Association.

Dairyman's Datebook

MAY 3, 4 p.m. Faith Builders Christian School Annual Benefit Auction with dinner and bake sale included; 28527 Guys Mills Road, Guys Mills, Pa.

MAY 4, 1:30 p.m. Berks County Dairy Princess Pageant at the Mohrsville Church of the Brethren, 1542 Shoey Road, Mohrsville

MAY 4, 7:30 p.m. Lebanon County Dairy Princess coronation at the Mt. Zion Road Church, 2087 Mount Zion Road, Lebanon, Pa.

MAY 11, 6 p.m. Centre County Dairy Princess Pageant at Wasson Farm, 2545 Shingletown Road, State College, Pa.

MAY 11, noon, Susquehanna County Dairy Princess Pageant, Oaklawn Farm Event Venue, 19604 State Route 29, Montrose Pa.

MAY 21-22, Holstein USA Judges Conference, Oakfield Corners Dairy, Oakfield, N.Y.

JUNE 13, 6 p.m. Annual Toast to Dairy Celebration, Melhom Manor, 977 West Main St., Mount Joy, Pa.

JUNE 18-21 National Ayrshire

Convention, Comfort Inn & Suites, 840 Sean Drive, Fremont, Ohio.

JUNE 19-22, American Jersey Cattle Association (AJCA) and National All-Jersey, Inc. (NAJ) annual meetings, Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place, Springfield, Mass.

JUNE 22, 8 a.m. to noon, Breakfast on the Farm at lowa's Dairy Center, 1527 Highway 150 South, Calmar.

JUNE 25-29, National Milking Shorthorn Convention, Fireside Inn & Suites, 25 Airport Road, West Lebanon, N.H.

JULY 3-6, National Brown Swiss Convention, Hyatt Regency Hotel, 333 Main Street, Green Bay, Wis.

JULY 6, Pennsylvania Holstein Picnic, McWilliams Farm,

JULY 12, 10 a.m. Virginia Dairy Expo, Shenandoah Valley Produce Auction, 2839 Lumber Mill Road, Dayton.

OCTOBER 17-20, Pennsylvania State Grange Session, Pittsburgh Marriott North, 100 Cranberry Drive, Cranberry Township, Pa.

Donations are ongoing to supply fresh milk SYRACUSE, N.Y. – American Dairy Association North East



Dairy farmer Trisha Knight Boyce of Easton, Md., is supporting the charitable Fill a Glass with Hope® retail campaign in the media.

Day campaign to provide fresh milk to Maryland and District of Columbia families in need. The month-long campaign runs through May 16, and customers are encouraged to make a \$1, \$3, or \$5 donation at checkout. All donations will be used to purchase fresh milk for the Capital Area and Maryland food banks.

Fill a Glass with Hope was initiated in 2015 by Pennsylvania dairy farmers. Thanks to generous supporters, the pro-

is partnering with Shoppers Food & Pharmacy for a Mother's

nia dairy farmers. Thanks to generous supporters, the program has distributed more than 36 million servings of fresh milk through a network of food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and feeding programs.

Boyce represented all dairy farmers across the region in an interview facilitated by ADA North East on Baltimore's WMAR to promote the Mother's Day campaign.

"Dairy farmers take great pride and work hard every day to feed our local communities and the world," said Boyce. "It's important for us to encourage and promote these types of programs so everyone has access to the fresh milk we produce.

"We thank Shoppers stores and their customers for allowing us to again help local moms nourish their families with fresh, nutritious milk this Mother's Day through Fill a Glass with Hope," said ADA North East CEO John Chrisman.



A skipper rests on the flower of an alfalfa plant, one of many forage species covered in the newly updated fourth edition of the Purdue Extension Forage Field Guide. The pocket guide covers all the vital information that forage producers need, including pest information, soil fertility, animal nutrition and more. (Purdue University photo/John Obermeyer)

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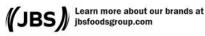


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Purdue Forage Field Guide provides essential information

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. – The fourth edition of the Forage Field Guide from Purdue University Extension is available for purchase on the Extension Education Store website. The 324-page pocket guide is a valuable resource on navigating forage management.

Notable guide updates include higher quality photographs, added information to the soil fertility section, new information related to corn production and when it is to be used as silage, and new pages on tar spot disease and the sugarcane aphid.



Doors Available.

National Dairy Shrine bestows top honors on Corey Geiger

FORT ATKINSON, Wis. — National Dairy Shrine has named Corey Geiger, former editor of Hoard's Dairyman, their Guest of Honor for 2024. This award recognizes an exemplary dairy leader for his or her accomplishments and contributions to the dairy industry. Of all the annual Dairy Shrine awards, the Guest of Honor symbolizes the highest level of recognition.

Honoring dairy leaders is a core element of the National Dairy Shrine mission, and Geiger becomes the 82nd person to be named a National Dairy Shrine Guest of Honor. The organization is in the process of celebrating its 75th anniversary this year.

While Geiger has achieved tremendous

success over the course of his lifelong dedication to the dairy industry, he's most recognized for work done during his 28-year tenure with Hoard's Dairyman – work which spanned far beyond his editorial career obligations. He becomes the fifth former editor of the magazine to receive Guest of Honor

Geiger's career at Hoard's Dairyman began nine months before his college graduation from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He proceeded to work his way up from associate editor, through the ranks to managing editor, where he focused his efforts on dairy policy, milk marketing, tax and financial planning, cost of production, crops

and soils, employee relations, breeding and genetics. His work with the magazine took him to 48 states and 12 foreign countries, and he was instrumental in the launch of publication's fourth language edition, Hoard's Dairyman China.

During this time, he served as president of Holstein Association USA, the Wisconsin Holstein Association and National Dairy Shrine. He also was active in

dairy judging contests at both the 4-H and collegiate levels, World Dairy Expo, and the Farm Wisconsin Discovery Center. He also worked closely with the UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS) on various boards and as a Badger Dairy Camp instructor. In 2023, CALS awarded him with their highest honor, the Honorary Recognition Award.

Geiger has also authored two books, which have had copies sold in all 50 states. His first book earned him a spot as a finalist for the 2022 National Indie Excellence Award.

Sarah Thomas, product support analyst at

Select Sires Inc. and previous Hoard's Dairyman editorial intern, nominated Geiger for the Guest of Honor award. "It would be quite near impossible to find someone more enthusiastic and genuine about the dairy cow, dairy farmers and the greater dairy industry than Corey Geiger," she says. "He appreciates, recognizes and highlights the history of our industry with ease, all while being part of the push forward to ensure that it suc-

ceeds for years to come."

Geiger is currently the lead dairy economist at CoBank, where he provides insight and analysis on elements of the dairy sector, ranging from milk production to consumer products. He also participates in research and analyses for customers, industry professionals and national media outlets.

Geiger will receive the Guest of Honor award at National Dairy Shrine's Awards Banquet on Monday, September 30th in Madison, Wisconsin. His portrait will then be displayed in National Dairy Shrine's Dairy Hall of Fame and Museum in Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin.

Lebanon County dairy royalty to be crowned

LEBANON, Pa. — The 52nd Annual Lebanon County Dairy Princess Coronation will be held on Saturday, May 4th, starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Mt Zion Road Church, 2087 Mount Zion Road, Lebanon.

In conjunction with the coronation, there will also be a dessert contest called "Digging into Dairy." The top three individuals in both divisions will receive cash prizes. Divisions are Youth (15 and under) and Adult (16 and over).

Contest rules are:

1. Desserts and the recipe need to be at the Mt. Zion Road Church - Word of Life

2. Entries must contain real dairy products such as milk, butter, whipped cream, cream cheese, etc. (Margarine, Cool Whip, soy or almond milk etc. do not qualify as real dairy products! However "Extra Creamy Cool Whip" does qualify as a real dairy product)

3. Anyone can bring a dairy dessert; you



Dairy royalty serving for the past year included, left to right: Lil' Dairy Miss Rea Light, Dairy Miss Evelyn Maulfair, Penn-sylvania State Alternate Dairy Princess Mackenzie Thomas from Lebanon County, Lil' Dairy Miss Rosalie Maulfair, Dairy Maid Haylee Mullen, and Dairy Miss Mikaylia Maulfair.

just have to be present at the pageant to receive your prize!

4. You must bring a copy of the recipe with your dairy dessert.

Event attendees will get a chance to try all of the dairy desserts that were entered at the social following the pageant.



Corey Geiger



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For additional information, please reach out to Amy Simms at 484-643-6714.







Silo authority offers tips to increase silo safety

By RENEE TROUTMAN Special for Farmshine

ANNVILLE, Pa. — Jeffery Moyer of Jeff's Farm Service in Bernville, Pa. makes equipping, maintaining, and using silos his livelihood. He says that any silo, even an older silo, isn't something to be feared, but needs to be understood. "There's hardly a day goes by that I'm not climbing a silo and I don't plan to quit. I enjoy the climb, I love the view," Moyer said.

Moyer has a lifetime of experience with silos both old and new. He was on the scene at the collapse to learn what happened and how it could be prevented in the future. One concern he had was that the moisture level of the forage was a little high and the wetter material was on the bottom. Moyer believes the distributor had not been

functioning and the pace of the feed being blown into the silo quickly caused an imbalance that affected the level of pressure against the walls. "If you think of your ears popping when you go over a mountain. You can only go so far with the pressure changing that fast until your ears have had enough. It's not enough time to adjust," he explained.

Silos built in the the 1960's and 1970's were made during an era when the equipment available for harvesting and filling resulted in the time to fill a silo taking up to two weeks. Now with bigger and faster equipment, it can be filled in two days. A lot of pressure adjustment on the structure itself needs to happen very quickly.



Rapid filling ... two days as opposed to two weeks ... is stressful on decades-old structures. Jeffery Moyer of Jeff's Farm Service in Bernville, Pa. recommends having a camera

in the silo and a screen in the cab of your tractor so you can see what's going on in the silo when you're filling, and every day while you're unloading the feed. Photo by Dieter Krieg

While newer silos are being built to match these rigors, older silos are not always up to par. With more powerful harvesting and filling equipment, Moyer feels that distributors still need to be manufactured more effectively to meet the capacity. He also says that the bigger the diameter of the silo, the bigger the concern.

Moyer prefers center-fill distributors over the cable spreader versions. "I feel the center fill does a better job. The feed goes into the center, hits the distributor pan, and blows feed to the wall. The pressure then rolls to the center and there's constant pressure on the wall," he explained.

Moyer said hoops are critical for the safety of the structure. They should not be rusted,

worn through, or missing. If there are enough properly placed hoops 30-40 feet up the base of the structure it should stay standing. There should not be any exposed rebar inside the silo where the feed sits. That would call for an immediate repair using shot-crete.

Silos built today are engineered under more specific standards and the concrete is meticulously tested for its soundness and consistency. The rebar used is also thicker and runs both vertically and horizontally. Older silos often lacked many of these things in their construction.

Moyer said older silos made with the 2'x2' square forms are more of a concern. The silo that collapsed on Villa Dale Farm was a square form silo, but Moyer maintains that he doesn't

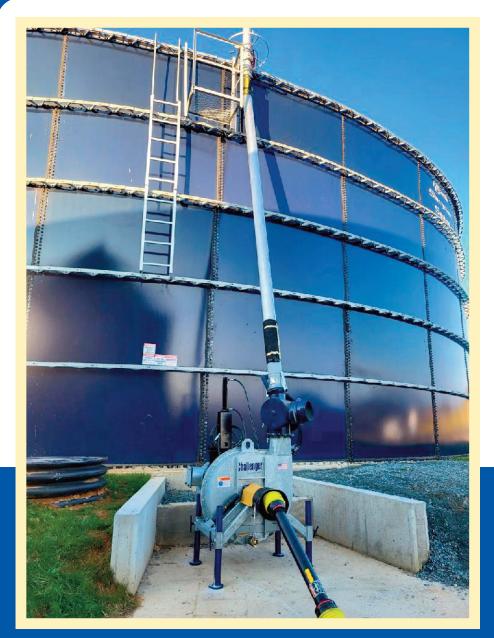
think there was anything significant with the structural integrity of the silo that collapsed.

"I can't stress enough the importance of a camera in the silo. Have a screen in the cab of your tractor so you can see what's going on in the silo when you're filling and every day while you're unloading the feed," Moyer said. To more fully understand the construction process of a modern silo he also recommends watching recent videos posted to the 10th Generation Dairyman's YouTube channel as new silos are built on that Lancaster County dairy farm.

Moyer emphasized the need to make sure the silo's distributor is working properly and harvesting feed that is at the proper moisture level. Farmers are up against many factors when harvesting crops. It's a fast-paced and

stressful time that requires a great feat in management and perseverance, so of course suggesting these things is easier said when faced with downtime to make repairs or beat the weather. "It's about doing as much as you can as quick as you can and that's how it is today with the kind of equipment we have," Moyer said. "You have to keep it moving."

Moyer has heard from several dairymen that are concerned about the use of their own silos after the collapse. Having a silo inspection done by someone with knowledge of the structure is recommended and Moyer says any silo builder could offer the service. Anyone that sells silo equipment could also be a source of advice.



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Silo tragedy in Lebanon County bonds broad community

By RENEE TROUTMAN Special for Farmshine

ANNVILLE, Pa. — Dubbed the first death in the history of Lebanon County from a silo collapse, Bryan D. Kendall, 31, lost his life in a tragic accident on Saturday, April 27th as one of the four silos on his dairy, Villa Dale Farm, toppled from under him as he worked at the top.

It's not possible to know exactly what happened to cause the collapse or why, but the 59-year-old 24'x70' concrete silo was full after a day and a half of filling it with tritical. A silo of that diameter was a marvel in the day it was built since most silos of that height were kept at 16' around. At construction, the concrete to build the silo was mixed on site.

Kendall climbed to the top at approximately 11:15 a.m. and realized that the silo had not filled evenly. He reported to those on the ground just how drastically the distribution of the feed was and proceeded to try to level the feed. After just 10 minutes of Kendall entering the silo, there was a snap and the silo instantly collapsed, shearing off the west end of the bank barn and spilling across an animal feeding area. It's not clear

where Kendall was in the structure at the time of the collapse. Several others were working in the area when it fell.

Much speculation has occurred as to the cause of the collapse. One assumption is that the older silo was no match for a high-capacity blower and the feed was being harvested and put up at too fast of a rate. Whether the cable-spreader distributor had ceased functioning is not known because it was too badly damaged in the wreckage to determine

It's not possible to know exactly what happened to cause the collapse, but the 59-year-old 24'x70' concrete silo was full after a day and a half of filling it with tritical.

Please see related article on silo safety on page 8.

Photo Credit: Taken from Annville Cleana Fire Department Facebook Page

its condition. It could also be presumed that the distributor was working but it was overwhelmed by the rate of uptake.

"What we would have done differently, I don't know. Everything was routine to filling a silo. It wasn't sloppiness or that he wasn't being careful. It's something that you can't explain," said Curtis Martin. Martin is a family friend and also rented the dairy facility which Kendall was operating for 21 years before retiring.

Martin added: "I can't stress enough the importance of checking on the distribution while filling."

The 911 call was placed at 11:30 a.m. to the farm on Mt. Pleasant Road, just southwest of Annville. Initially, Annville Cleona and Union Hose fire companies were dispatched to the scene, with further assistance from Palmyra and Campbelltown fire companies. As the gravity of the situation unfolded, help was summoned

from the Lancaster County Rescue Taskforce, the Blue Rock Search and Rescue Team, York Advanced Tech Rescue, the Harrisburg Fire Collapse Team, the Lancaster County Building Collapse Unit, and several K-9 units.

K-9 Units were deployed to search and shortly after 1 p.m. a cadaver dog from Special Unit 66 SAR was able to pinpoint Kendall's location at the base of the silo. Recovery efforts continued for another seven hours before extrication was possible.

"This whole situation is multi-faceted. I can't explain why. My thoughts the last couple of days have been: the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away; blessed be the name of the Lord," Martin shared. "It's a test. Do we believe God is good or do we just say He is?"

Kendall's family and friends have seen a tremendous amount of support since the accident from the more than 100 first responders on the scene to the scores of fellow farmers and people in the community who arrived the following day to begin the clean-up process. A GoFundMe account was established and quickly soared to over \$70,000 to benefit Kendall's wife and two young sons.

Fund organizer and friend Landon Allebach wrote on the donation page:

"...his (Bryan) life was rooted in the hope of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Bryan put no faith in his own good works but rather put his faith in the payment Jesus made for his sins on the cross. His life was a testament to that faith and the love he had for the Lord. Because of that, we can rejoice through the grief that Bryan is with his Savior in Heaven."





Forage inoculants and preservatives are essentials

By BEN JENSEN and JON PRETZ Hubbard Feeds

LANCASTER, Pa. — We all know that feeding cows high-quality forage can translate to increased profitability, thanks to its superior digestibility and encouragement of dry matter intake. However, over the past few years, prices have been on the rise as the result of a limited forage supply. Despite its high cost, whether we are feeding on our farms or shipping down the road as a source of income, we can all agree that forage quality matters.

Forage is a valuable farm feed ingredient — so why doesn't forage quality get more attention? Many of us have invested large amounts of money into both equipment and seed and have dedicated countless hours to planting, cutting and checking fields. At the end of the day, many resources are dedicated to putting up quality feed, but we tend to deprioritize

it once it's back on the farm.

Forage accounts for more than 50 percent of most dairy rations. As such, the quality of the forages fed is a key determinant of profitability. High-quality silages improve balanced rations but cannot necessarily be matched with complementary feedstuffs, which often add expense. Spoiled silages make it difficult for dairies to reach their profitability goals and can lead to serious herd health and fertility issues. Furthermore, forages are our primary feed resource, and the use of high-quality silages gives us the opportunity to reduce our purchased feed costs.

When evaluating the process of producing high-quality forages on-farm, the topic of inoculants and preservatives often comes up. We are asked countless questions about the costs and application of these products and which ones might best fit a producer's needs, but in most cases, the most important question is: Are they worth it?

Inoculants and preservatives are very different. An inoculant's goal is to add good, viable bacteria to help direct fermentation toward a low pH as quickly as possible, and/or to improve aerobic and feedout stability by preventing dry matter loss. Alternately, preservatives let naturally occurring bacteria drive fermentation and provide the best environment possible for doing so by either eliminating oxygen or by preventing detrimental bugs from growing. The different inoculants and preservatives available on the market can vary greatly depending on their specific bacterial strains or fermentation-enhancing ingredients.

Forage crops harvested for silage contain a natural population of "good" microorganisms, which can promote the desired fermentation, as well as "bad" microorganisms — such as harmful yeasts, molds and other bacteria — that can cause poor fermentation and lead to excessive losses of dry matter, energy and nutrients. Because all silages are different, it is best to consider your unique situation when selecting the appropriate product to ensure that the "good" microorganisms win the fermentation battle and to meet your goals.

When determining which inoculant to use, consider the following questions:

- 1. Do you ever get smelly, butyric silage? And/or are you worried about dry matter losses and the loss of digestible nutrients in ensiling?
- 2. Is it important to maximize feed quality (digestibility) during ensiling?
 - **3.** Do you ever see your silage and/or TMR heat?
 - 4. Have you seen any mold spoilage in the silage?
 - **5.** Do you have plans to move the silage?
 - **6.** Do you plan to feed silage during warm weather?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, utilizing a research-proven inoculant could help you manage your forage quality potential by aiding in the fermentation process, enhancing digestibility and increasing feedout stability. Our research has led us to focus on bacterial strain combinations of either Pediococcus pentosaceus and Lactobacillus plantarum or Pedioccus pentosaceus and Lactobacillus buchneri. Both of these combinations aid in maximizing fermentation while enhancing digestibility and stabilizing feedout.

When deciding whether or not a preservative is the right choice for you, consider the following questions:

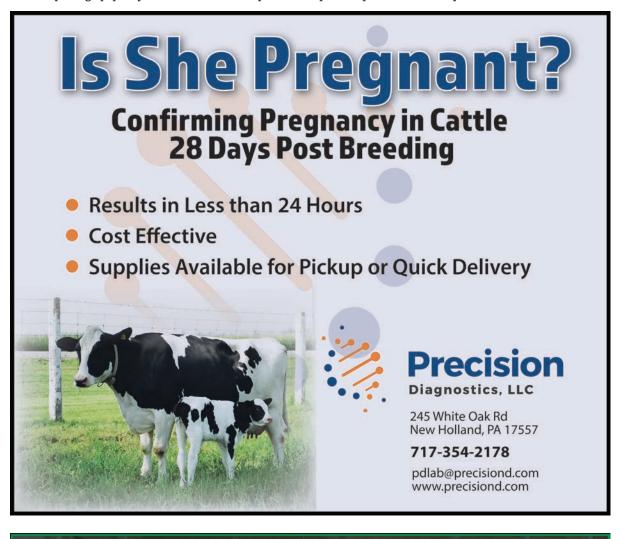
- 1. Was the forage harvested at the correct level of maturity and at an ideal dry matter percentage?
- **2.** Have high mold and yeast counts been a forage quality issue in the past?
- **3.** Are you looking for a more economical approach to preserving forage? Higher-cost buchneri inoculants may not be needed if the crop is harvested at an ideal maturity and dry matter percentage.

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, a preservative may be a good fit for your forage program. Our research on preservatives has led us to focus on an enzymeand sulfur-based product that allows unique enzymes to convert more complex forage carbohydrates to sugar. Water-soluble carbohydrates combine with enzyme-produced sugars to result in more sugars being available for naturally occurring, lactic acid-producing bacteria. This unique combination of ingredients allows for a more rapid and efficient fermentation by the lactic acid-producing bacteria naturally present in forage, while sulfur-containing antioxidants limit the growth of undesirable yeast and molds.

Return on investment (ROI) for inoculants and preservatives

The cost of beneficial bacteria and/or preservatives is relatively low in comparison to the cost of the land, equipment, fertilizer and seed needed to start the feed-making process — and it almost always pays for itself. Thanks to increases in dry matter recovery, maintaining stability at feedout and improved TMR stability, we can easily expect a total ROI of

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HPAI spreads to nine states, forcing some rule changes

By SHERRY BUNTING Special for Farmshine

WASHINGTON – Last week's USDA federal order requiring testing before transport of all lactating dairy cows from any state to any other state, effective April 29, took many in the industry by surprise after it appeared there was a lull in new cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in dairy herds. Some wonder why, given the fact that cattle recover and the one and only human case in a dairy worker was a mild conjunctivitis that resolved on its own.

Stemming the spread is important, officials say, because of potential transmission from dairy cows to poultry, and because researchers need to understand what is an evolving and novel situation blamed for a syndrome that began in Texas in February marked primarily by reduced feed intake, marked drop in herd level milk production, thick or colostrum-like milk in affected cows, and dry tacky manure.

Last week, USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) updated the number of herds with HPAI detections to 36 in 9 states: Texas (12), New Mexico (8), Michigan (6), Kansas (4), Idaho (2), Ohio (1), North Carolina (1), South Dakota (1), and Colorado (1).

The federal order includes mandatory reporting of HPAI, and the required pre-movement testing pertains only to lactating dairy cows.

The only exception is for cows going directly to a federallyinspected slaughter plant.

For cattle coming into Pennsylvania from states where HPAI has been detected within the prior 30 days, even nonlactating dairy cattle and dairy crossbreds over one year of age will need to be tested via nasal swab per state orders.

Lactating dairy cow testing is only through milk samples, which again are where the reservoir of virus is being found. These milk samples must be collected by a licensed veterinarian or a designee at the farm, if the veterinarian is comfortable signing for that sample via a valid client-patient relationship (VCPR).

USDA APHIS will pay for the cost of all pre-movement and suspected illness testing for HPAI H5N1, but the costs of taking the samples and sending them to a qualified lab are not

During the May 1 Center for Dairy Excellence call, Pennsylvania State Veterinarian Alex Hamberg helped clarify emerging orders and guidance.

Both Hamberg and Jeff Warner, director of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Bureau of Food Safety and Laboratory Services, emphasized the effectiveness of pasteurization to inactivate the virus in milk. Hamberg noted that PCR testing has a tendency to pick up dead strands of virus so that can be confusing, but pasteurized milk is safe.

Warner said there is no ban on raw milk sales from permitted farms at this time because there have been no HPAI detections in Pennsylvania; however, all permit holders have been notified by mail and email to be mindful of the signs of HPAI, and as all dairy farms are expected to do with any sick cow, withdraw that milk from sale.

"We have no cases in Pennsylvania to-date. We have done some testing, and so far, no detections. Let's keep that trend

Producers asked: What happens when there is a positive

State extension veterinarian and resident director of the Penn State Animal Diagnostic Laboratory System (PADLS), "we notify the national veterinary lab system and the state department of agriculture, and then Alex (the state vet) springs into

without permission, but if cattle need to go to slaughter or

going," said Hamberg. "If a test comes back positive," said Ernest Hovingh, Penn somewhere else, we would do a risk assessment for permitting. We also would use 30-day increment permits for milk movement to processing, so you could move milk from this point to this processor, but while doing it, you follow these biosecurity rules like being the last stop on the truck and having additional cleaning for trucks leaving the farm, and having enhanced biosecurity plans in place," said Hamberg.

He has much experience with quarantine response for HPAI in Pennsylvania's poultry industry, which this year surpassed dairy for the first time as the largest cash receipts ag sector in the Commonwealth. He noted the risk of spread from dairy cows to poultry is a big concern, since HPAI is deadly to poultry.

At the same time, he said, "we are seeing nationally a 20% drop in herd level milk production (in dairy herds where HPAI has been detected). That hurts. Dairy is tough enough, and losing 20% of your milk, that stinks, so we don't want to compound that loss. We want to move milk in a safe way to get your milk to processing" -- if HPAI is detected on a Pennsylvania dairy farm.

"This is not a big scary thing. We have steps we can do -even if we get a positive case," said Hamberg.

Hovingh noted that having Pennsylvania dairy heifers raised out west is now a high-risk practice. "Your animals would be going west to a potentially infected state, and they would return at over one year old and be subject to state rules for testing" -- if they come back from a state with HPAI de-

Farmers and cattle dealers have questions about what is needed to ship cull dairy cows to livestock auctions, where packer buyers come from several states.

Hamberg said his office is expecting additional guidance from USDA this week, but his understanding right now is that sale barns will only be required to have a Certified Veterinary Inspection (CVI) and a negative HPAI milk test when lactating dairy cows cross state lines to a market.

"If you are going to a sale barn within your state, you don't need the extra testing, but this would limit the sale to buyers within your state - unless that buyer takes the animal(s) directly from the auction, to slaughter," he said. "Dairy cows (from Pennsylvania dairy farms) can go to a sale barn in Pennsylvania, and then go across state lines to a slaughter plant in New Jersey with just an owner-shipper statement and back tags -- as long as they leave as a group, get on the trailer as a group, and don't get off that trailer until they are at an FSIS inspected slaughter plant."

Producers also have questions about what is needed for exhibition cattle with the show and fair season as well as regional and national shows underway.

USDA's final rule on mandatory electronic identification was published in the May 1 Federal Register, Hamberg noted. In 180 days, the rule requires E-ID for all sexually intact cattle over 18 months of age, as well as bison and all cattle in exhi-

turn to page 23



"I still lost cows when I grooved, Agri-Trac came in and changed that! This is real Traction for my cows! I noticed the difference right away! I liked it so much I had them come back and do the rest of my barns! No more grooving for us! Thanks Agri-Trac!"

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Vince Deboover Farms, Geneva, NY

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Derrick Nop, Montgomery, NY

"AGRI-TRACTraction Milling works 100%! I have grooving and it does not work! AGRI-TRAC milled right over my grooving and fixed it! I will stick to AGRI-TRAC in the - Robert Musser, Shippensburg, PA

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If there ever was such a thing as a banner day, it happened on April 22 in central Pennsylvania. Sweet-Peas Holsteins had reasons to celebrate. Pictured from left to right, front row: Kayla Barton, Heather Soden, Madison Soden (kneeling). In back, same order: Colton Lusk, Mikey Barton, Michael Bosley, Sean Lynch, Judge Kevin Doebriener, Denise Pease, and Tyler Soden.

PENNSYLVANIA HOLSTEIN SPRING SHOW

McWilliams Warrior Raine-ET secures her spot on top; Sweet-Peas Holsteins gathered many honors and banners

CENTRE HALL, Pa. — Judge Kevin Doebriener of Ohio identified McWilliams Warrior Raine-ET as the grand champion of the Pennsylvania Holstein Association's open show, held here on April 22 at the Grange Fairgrounds. She is proudly owned by Sam McWilliams and Katie Darnell of Somerset County. A 4-year old, Raine was also named best bred and owned.

Sweet-Peas Movin Camouflage, a junior 3-year old exhibited by Sweet-Peas Holsteins of Susquehanna County, was named reserve grand champion.

In the youth division, 5-year old Sweet-Peas Solomn Adrift-ET, owned by Tyler Soden, was named senior and grand champion. Tyler and his sister, Madison, shared the center of the ring as Madison exhibited the second-place in open placing and first-place youth placing in the aged cow class. MS Oportunity Amanda-Red-ET, sired by Avalanche, was named reserve senior champion and reserve grand champion among youth entries. All told Judge Doeberiener placed 219 head that day.

The Pease Family was named the Premier Breeder and Premier Exhibitor of the heifer shows and by day's end they were awared the same prestige for the overall show.

Aubree Kitzmiller of Lycoming County leading AAG-Dreams Helix Firefly, a senior 2-year old, earned the reserve intermediate champion prize of the youth division, as well as distinction for best bred and owned honors of the youth

On Tuesday evening, a delicious chicken BBQ meal was available, with milk donated by DFA and ice cream provided by Purina Feeds and four of their feed mills (East Gate, Franklin Feeds, Hess Mills, and K&K Feed).

Wednesday night was the youth showmanship contest but prior to the contest the American Dairy Association and Domino's Pizza helped the juniors fill their bellies with Domino's pizza. All in attendance on Wednesday night were invited to enjoy ice cream sponsored by Wasson Farm Ice Cream.

Thursday was a beautiful day, with a smoothly run show that would not have been possible without the countless volunteers who stepped up and took days off to be inside and outside of the ring.

Without volunteers, quality Holsteins, dairy breeders and enthusiasts, along with the extreme generosity of sponsors, this show would not have been made possible in central Pennsylvania. Like in everything, there is a lot of preparation that goes on in the barns, at home and behind the scenes.

The Pennsylvania Holstein Association thanks everyone who had a hand, part or contribution to making the show happen.

Please look for more show coverage in next week's Farmshine.

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The five most important tips for quality hay-making

CORVALLIS, Ore. – Making quality hay requires basic knowledge of the life cycle and parts of the plants to know how to capture the optimum nutrient value. Being a student of the local weather conditions also helps complete the task.

The National Forage and Grassland Curriculum based out of Oregon State University offers five key considerations on how to properly harvest and store hay.

1. Timing is everything. Harvest or cut the hay at first bloom, also known as heading or the anthesis stage. Make sure to cut or swath hay when the forecast calls for several consecutive days of sunshine, as it is best to cut and bale hay without rain if it can be avoided.

2. Leave the nutrition in. Make sure you harvest forages that have a good nutrient content and remember that often the leaves contain the best nutrition. Some species such as meadow foxtail don't have adequate

leaves to make quality hay. Since 2/3 of the plant's protein is found in the leaves, it is important to find a forage with good leaves that will stay on the plant once it is harvested. Although yield increases as the plant matures, both nutrient value and palatability are at their peak at anthesis, so finding the right time to cut or swath hay becomes an art.

3. Dry before you bale. Rapidly dry the hay to 15-20%

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Although yield increases as the plant matures, both nutrient value and palatability are at their peak at anthesis, so

finding the right time to cut or swath hay becomes an art.

Photo by Dieter Krieg

2/3 of the plant's protein is moisture. Cut the hay so that baling becomes simpler and the should be able to get 2-3 cut

into wide windrows that help facilitate drying while waiting to be baled. Keep the stubble relatively high, which also helps air circulate around the hay, and helps it dry faster.

Most grasses and forages contain up to 90% moisture, so

ability for it to dry is maximized. Most swathers cut the hay

Most grasses and forages contain up to 90% moisture, so it could take a few days to dry they hay down to 15-20% $\,$

moisture. If you need to "rake" the hay into windrows that will help speed up the drying process, but be cautious, as that also removes the leaves, the main nutrient source from the hay.

4. Green is good. Maintain the forage's green color, which indicates minimal deterioration. The green color of in forages indicate nutrient values are still present, and mold is not. Sun can bleach the hay, which also removes nutrients. If your hay turns white or brown, that is a sign of mold.

5. Storage solutions. Be sure to store your hay in a place where it is protected from further deterioration to maximize nutrients and palatability. If you can store it inside, that is ideal, just make sure it is free from moisture. And, make sure you can identify which field/pasture and which cutting each load came from when it comes time to forage test later in the year.

In ideal conditions, you

should be able to get 2-3 cuttings of hay each season, allowing you to stockpile forage for your livestock when you need to feed them a lower-cost feed. Be sure to test your hay prior to feeding it so you know what its nutrient value is and how to supplement your livestock to ensure they are getting all the vitamins and minerals they need to stay healthy and perform



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High forage diets can maximize dairy profit

But they are not accomplished overnight; here's how to approach it

Got your T-shirts yet?

Two styles of Farmshine T-shirts are available in various colors and sizes.

Dairy Farmers Squeeze to Please -- a Farmshine original since 1981, has been a big seller for well over 30 years. It is available in either golden yellow or medium gray.

Cows Got Milk ... Providing Goodness Worldwide is a Farmshine original, introduced in 2013. It is available in lime green, medium gray, light yellow and pink. The shirt's message is meant to help convey a positive message about milk to the public.

Both T-shirt designs have the familiar Farmshine logo on the back.

We invite you to wear any of these T-shirts. Mix or match in any quantity. Postage is included in the price and discounts are available for orders of 10 or more to the same address.



 $\label{eq:modeling} \mbox{Modeling the T-shirt is 20-month old Emily Krieg.}$

DAIRY FARMERS

SQUEEZE to PLEASE

cows got milk providing and the worldwide

Modeling the T-shirt is 4-year old Geneva Styer, daughter of Heidi and Andy Styer and granddaughter of Farmshine Editor, Dieter Krieg.

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By TOM KILCER Advanced Ag Systems

RUTLEDGE, Tenn. – Milk prices are down and putting a squeeze between the dairy and the concentrate purchased to maintain milk production.

One advantage of being around for a long time (when we milked mammoths) is that we have seen this before. It doesn't make it any more pleasant.

The early 1980's were very hard times with many farms not making it. We had a repeat scenario in 2014 when grain prices went through the roof. We are seeing a version of this again in 2024. Ironically the breakthrough we had in early 2000 is still viable today.

A key has been to feed cows as cows. They are fiber digesters and the more digestible forage that is included, the greater the benefit.

Farms we worked with documented increased components as they switched to higher digestible fiber from forage. They got more money for their milk, along with healthier cows and reduced culling, which meant fewer heifers needed to be carried to maintain herd numbers.

Dr. Larry Chase of Cornell, in a study of high forage fiber farms, also found fewer metabolic disorders and acidosis. This meant fewer foot problems and lower vet costs. The lower vet costs were a striking factor in the farms we worked with.

Dr. Chase and our work found that there was a significant increase in income over feed costs. In other words, the bottom line got better!

A group of farms for which highly digestible fiber forage diets are critical — are the organic dairies. Their grain costs are tremendously high. Substituting high digestible fiber forage can meet the animal's needs for high production without sending so much of the milk check to someone else.

Forage feeding level is not something you magically pull out of the air and start stuffing into the cows.

Page 125 of the Dairy Reference Manual shows the % NDF feeding level able to be fed -- depending on the size of the cow and the weighted NDF of the forage fed. In the chart (Fig. 1), the NDF forage feeding levels are inputted into a ration for a 1600 lb. cow. Note: all three levels of forage feeding are balanced rations. Which one does your nutritionist choose?

Achieving the profitability of a high-forage diet takes two key people; the farmer making the forage and the nutritionist balancing the ration. The nutritionist, if on board with the effort, can only be as good as the forage they have to feed.

The forage program is critical in getting forage quality to the mouth of the cow (the only place it counts).

Having calculated for multiple farms over multiple years, it is consistent that the cost of nutrients from forage is much less than from concentrate.

Of course, if you farm with no soil test, a better equipment lineup than the machinery dealer, and a harvest that goes by turn to page 15

SORGUM PARTNERS ABANDO O SHEW SELED COMPANY Grain Sorghum -SP 30A30 -SP 45A45 -SP 58M85 Sudangrass & Sorghum-Sudangrass -BMR 6, Photoperiod Sensitive, Fine stems, Wide leaves SavorLea 471 Sorghum-Sudangrass -BMR 6, Good vigor, Widely adapted, Great yielder SunLea 209 Sorghum Sudangrass -Biomass builder, Economical Forage or Cover Crop option ST 2090 BMR BD Forage Sorghum -Brachytic Dwarf, BMR, Short season ST 2105 BMR MS Forage Sorghum (Male Sterile) -Energy comparable to com silage with 8 - 10% protein J3817 GT Soybeans Excellent for Full Season or Double Crop Remarkable health 3.8 Group Rating	A STATE OF THE STA	all Grains - Corn - Soybeans
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High forage diets

date like grandpa did instead of quality, and if you're laying the haylage in windrow to compost dry over three days, the cost of your nutrients in the forage could be more

Soils drive the rotation, which drives what the cows are fed.

than the purchased concentrate.

One farm was growing 60% haylage and 40% corn silage (best rotation for their soil type). The nutritionist was feeding 60% corn silage and 40% haylage and they were wondering why they were always running out of one of the feeds. You need enough forage and all must be high quality to support maximized feeding.

As a farmer you need to grow the quality digestible fiber forage that is best adapted to your soil and environment. This is why we actively developed the best management practices for alternative crops that are proven to produce very high-quality high digestible forage such as wide swath sameday haylage, flag leaf winter triticale forage, male sterile BMR sorghum with enhanced nutrition, red clover; and high digestibility cool season grasses. Each can support highforage diets but is adapted to soils/environments where alfalfa and /or corn may not do as well.

Grain types for silage or dual-purpose types for corn silage is 1950's technology that can only support a low-forage diet. Growing appropriate season, high fiber digestible, soft kernel corn varieties will allow it to be harvested at optimum quality instead of waiting a month after everyone started before you can chop wet butyric stuff.

That promised extra yield is not worth it, and simultaneously kills the profitable crop that hundreds of farmers have tapped by following a slightly shorter season corn crop with high-quality winter triticale forage.

Harvesting haylage by wide swath sameday practices allows faster harvest and has been proven to increase the energy level of your alfalfa by 25% to nearly that of corn silages. This supports higher forage feeding, which supports much higher milk production from your haylage.

Mowing directly into a windrow and then composting that for two to three days to reach 35% DM before chopping will never get you to this high forage feeding opportu-

Both of these factors, corn silage variety selection, and haylage harvest method, are factors you control. Your nutritionist needs to be fully on board.

One farm thought they were feeding high forage until the ration was examined. The nutritionist had it balanced for a 1350-pound animal. The farmer and his wife taped all their cows and found the average was 1600 pounds per cow - it was not a high-forage

For this to work, you must start with accurate, not guessed, numbers. Again, the nutritionist needs to be on board.

Many excellent dairy nutritionists have the skill, experience, and drive to meet your farm's objective of high digestible fiber forage -- feeding the highest forage fiber quality you can produce. If yours doesn't, find one that will.

from page 14

You have to take steps to increase forage fed. As mentioned above, the first is quantity of quality forage from timely harvest. Then it needs to be preserved utilizing a proper inoculant and packing in the storage.

Nearly all steps are your management, not something you buy. The cows will start eating more of better-quality forage.

Dr. Chase of Cornell recommends a 2% step increase at a time and the ration rebalanced at each step. The cows may slightly decrease due to change, and then significantly increase production after that, but do it on more forage.

As you work with your nutritionist to step up the forage feeding levels, and as the cows adjust, they will eat more. It is not done overnight. As your forage digestible fiber increases you will need to adjust your management to take advantage of it.

Dumping highly digestible forage fiber in the rumen means it can quickly flow through and out of the rumen before the nutrients can be fully digested and utilized. Work by Dr. Rick Grant of Miner Institute found that as the forage digestible fiber increased, the length of cut needed to increase. A 3/4 to 1 inch length of cut will increase the peNDF for a better rumen mat and greater extent of digestion before it is washed out of the rumen. A one-inch length will not increase sorting.

For highly digestible forages like winter triticale at flag leaf stage or enhanced male sterile BMR sorghum, the increased length of cut has the added benefit of dramatically reducing silo leachate.

As our winter forage yields have increased to 4, 5, and now 6 tons DM per acre, it is increasingly difficult to get it quickly dry for ensiling. The one-inch length of cut and increased moisture allows it to be successfully ensiled without nutrients leaching out of the silo (wet forage not suggested for upright silos).

You can burn through a lot of highly digestible fiber without getting the nutrient benefit, if you short cut it. Adding a small amount of chopped straw will band-aid the issue, but the long term answer is to increase the length of chop at harvest.

Combine the two factors of forage quality and NDF feeding level: A moderately low forage quality diet fed at a typical low forage feeding level, when transitioned to a high forage diet of high forage quality, will consume 32% more forage (Fig. 2) while producing equal or more milk, and clearly more components from healthier cows.

It may seem common sense, but you have to produce it before you feed it. Farmers are often shocked to see how fast the end of the forage supply comes when feeding a high-

Forage Needed by Forage Quality and Feeding Level Fig. 2 35 Pounds of Forage Dry Matter Fed 30 1.00% (Quantity) 0.95% 0.95% 0.85% 0.75% Forage MIF Feeding Level 25 20 15 10 5 Forage NDF (Quality)

Forage inventory needed by quality and feeding level.

Provided by Tom Kilcer

forage diet.

When it is all put together, the shift in profitability is im-

About the author: Tom Kilcer operates Advanced Ag Systems from his home in Rutledge, Tenn., after spending decades on location in eastern New York State, working with dairy farms and researchers in practical application and onfarm trials. His motto: "It is the crops that feed the cows that make the milk, which creates the money."

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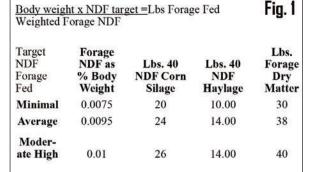


Table from page 125 of the Dairy Reference Manual shows the % NDF feeding level able to be fed -- depending on the size of the cow and the weighted NDF of the forage



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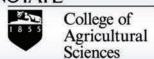




Which of these liners is your mastitis creator? Round, square, triangle...

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Penn State Dairy Science Club visits Texas

This year the Penn State Dairy Science Club's annual spring trip took 27 students to Texas for five days of experiencing Texas culture and learning about the state's robust dairy industry.

The trip began with exposure to a true Texan experience, visiting the Fort Worth Stockyards. According to Ashton Stiles, Blairsville, past club president and one of the organizers, "One goal was to see sights out of the ordinary and some fun touristy activities." And this visit fulfilled, with Lynneah Brady, Big Cove Tannery, saying, "One of the biggest highlights for me was visiting the Fort Worth Stockyards. I am a HUGE fan of John Wayne and grew up on The Roy Rogers Show, so getting to see the John Wayne Museum and Roy Rogers's horse Trigger and dog Bullet was absolutely amazing."

The Stock Yards visit also included entertainment by bull riders, barrel racers and other cowboys and cowgirls at the Fort Worth Stockyards Rodeo. The group also visited Sundance Square, a unique entertainment, dining and shopping venue found in downtown Fort Worth.

About the itinerary, Stiles explained, "We wanted to include some larger dairies and some more technology-based farms like the robotic herd we visited. Overall, we wanted the entire club to enjoy the trip and learn something new about the dairy industry!"

Texas A&M

An early highlight was meeting the Texas A&M Dairy Science Club on campus in College Station, where members exchanged ideas about club activities and Penn State students received a tour of the campus. A notable feature on the campus is a wall in the staircase of the Kleburg Animal Science Building that has the historical brands of 2,500 Texas ranches. At the Memorial Student Center, the students learned about the Hall of Honor which honors eight Aggies who have received the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Brady said, "We made a lot of friends, which then allowed us to hang out with that group at North American Dairy Challenge! The Texas A&M campus tour we got was a lot of fun too; I especially loved their Hall of Honor



On a visit to the ST Genetics facility in Navasota, Penn State students had the opportunity to see their bulls, learn more about their Ecofeed programs, and their development on reproductive technologies in cattle.

which commemorates Texas veterans."

Before visiting Texas A&M, members visited the headquarters of ST Genetics at Navasota. Dan Carroll, Dairy Programs Manager, arranged a day of educational programs and tours where the Penn Staters learned about ST's Ecofeed System and their

feed efficiency research. They also learned about the evolution of semen sexing machines, and discussed ST's efforts to increase genetic progress by decreasing generation intervals and employing other strategies.

Although most of ST Genetics' dairy sires are housed in other locations, students saw a wide variety of Brahman bulls and other beef sires that are marketed worldwide.

After a visit to Magnolia Silos in Waco, the group visited several local dairy farms near

Stephenville. The first stop was to Ned-Tex Dairy, a 900-cow herd milked by 15 robots. Deedee Stoker, owner along with husband Roel and son Roeland, gave the students a great overview of their breeding program and the challenges faced by Texas dairy

producers.

Next farm was Volleman's Family Farm and Wildcat Dairy, Gustine, where the family milks approximately 5,000 cows and opened a milk bottling facility within the past four years. The family came to the

United States from Luxembourg to Texas in 1993. The four Volleman sons each have a main area of responsibility in their operation. Andrew Volleman led the students on a tour of the processing plant and farm, and students were able to taste test a wide variety of Volleman products. Although the Volleman brand is fairly new, they are now the official milk of the Dallas Cowboys. Following the visit to the milk plant, students headed to the main farm where they learned about their management strategies and use of by-product feeds such as cottonseed.

The group then visited Kuiper Dairy, owned by Clemens Kuiper and his family, who have four dairy farms, three in the local Hico area and one in Oklahoma. The main facility milks nearly 3,000 head in a 72-cow rotary parlor. The farm employs top-level genetics, and the Kuiper children are heavily involved in 4-H and dairy judging.

Brady explained that the farms the group visited were owned by families who had immigrated from western Europe. She said, "That was so interesting to me because they all came over here with nothing, and now they own some of the best dairy farms in Texas. Volleman's Dairy bottles its own milk and ships all over Texas, Ned-Tex Dairy has fifteen robots, and Kuiper Dairy owns three satellite dairies. To me, it showed their willingness to take chances, even if it is crazy, and let the Lord take the wheel. All of these families stepped out of their comfort zones to be where they are today and took amazing chances that nobody was sure would work out. For someone like me, who is just about to head into the industry as a dairy producer, I learned from these families that I need to not be afraid of change or trying new things. There is a whole world of possibilities out there that can add a lot of profit to a dairy - if you are willing to try it out."

Southwest Dairy Research Center

Another noteworthy visit was to the Southwest Dairy Research Center. Dr. Frank Owsley, Associate Dean of Tarleton State's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, outlined the unique arrangement that Tarleton State has with a dairy producer, with the producer owning all of the cows and the university owning the dairy facility.

Brady said, "Texas made for a great Spring Trip, and everything we did I enjoyed. It's a beautiful state with a lot of good dairies. I made many valuable memories on this trip."

Mason Nas, Gettysburg, summed up the feelings of most of the students well, "Our spring trip to Texas was an amazing and eye-opening experience to say the least. Traveling with close friends is always a good time, making our trip more memorable while we were exposed to a very different side of the dairy industry, compared to Pennsylvania. These trips provide great opportunities for networking with producers by allowing us to go on farm tours and witness how innovation plays such an important role in the success and growth of our industry."



Students headed to Ned-Tex farms, a 900 cow operation that is currently using 15 Lely robotic milking units.

Contact in-

formation

Department of Animal Science The Pennsylvania State University 109 AVBS, University Park, Pa. 16802 814-863-3665

Penn State Extension offers Youth Dairy Day Penn State Extension's Youth Dairy and • Tuesday June 25 - Crawford County at

participation or visit.

Penn State Extension's Youth Dairy and Livestock Day will be offered in three locations in June, with all workshops being held from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

- Friday, June 7 Huntingdon County at the Huntingdon County Fairgrounds, 10455
 Fairgrounds Access Road, Huntingdon
- Tuesday, June 18 York County at the York County 4-H Center, 771 Stoverstown Road, York
- Tuesday, June 25 Crawford County at the Crawford County Fairgrounds, 13291 Dickson Road, Meadville

Penn State Extension offers the event free of charge, but participants must register to attend. Lunch will be provided. Registration deadlines occur two days prior to each event.

For more information and to register, visit https://extension.psu.edu/youth-dairy-and-livestock-day

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Online resources

Department of Animal Science: animalscience.psu.edu College of Agricultural Sciences: agsci.psu.edu Cooperative Extension: extension.psu.edu



Topping the sale at \$8100 was Kruses ACC Norwin Jiffy-ET, a fancy winter show calf consigned by Acclaimed / Kruse of Iowa. Investing in her future were JoBo Farms of Pennsylvania and Packard & Kueffner of Maryland. Pictured, left tó right, are Cindy Warner and Ellie Widerman from JoBo



Second high seller at \$7500 was Prime Time Rampage Faye-ET, a stylish winter calf consigned by Brody Geiwitz of Pennsylvania and purchased by Peter Vail of Florida, repre-sented by Cindy Warner. Justin Dewees is at the halter.



The third high seller, at \$6100, was Top Acres Noble Pris, a stand-out fall calf consigned by Wayne Sliker of Ohio. Tom Stull of Ontario, Canada, was the buyer. Pictured are Cindy Warner, sale manager, and Hannah Myers at the halter. In the box are Wayne Sliker, pedigree reader, left, and Denny

50th Mid-Atlantic Brown Swiss sale averaged \$2409

BV CINDY WARNER Special for Farmshine

FREDERICK, Md. — Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Mid-Atlantic Brown Swiss Calf Sale did not disappoint with another successful chapter ... the final chapter.

Good weather and good people were in attendance for this concluding sale. A tradition of excellence continued and a great group of highest quality calves once again graced the sale ring. The 40 head sold averaged \$2409. It was a great line-up of "typey" calves backed by maternal lines with show-winning ways.

Topping the sale at \$8100 was a December show calf, Kruses Norwin Jiffy-ET, tall, long and fancy and backed by seven Excellent dams, many of the show winners. She was the consignment of Acclaimed Swiss and the Kruse Family of Iowa. Bidding was brisk on site as well as on Cowbuyer.

Jiffy's new owners are JoBo Farms of Gettysburg, Pa. along with Terry Packard and Ernie Kueffner of Boones-

The second-high seller was Prime Time Rampage Faye-ET, a December calf with excellent show prospects. She's out of Round Hill Braiden Fenny (EX-93) and backed by Excellent dams and All-Americans. She was the consignment of Brody Geiwitz of Volant, Pa. and was purchased by Peter Vail

boro, Md.



Acres Noble Pris, a big and stylish fall calf consigned by Wayne Sliker and Brian Sparling of St. Paris, Ohio. The pedigree shows nine generations of high VG or EX dams. Pris sold for \$6100 to Tom Stull of Ontario, Canada.

Selling for the fourth-highest bid, \$5600, was Blessing Garbro W Portia-ET, the consignment of Blessing Farm and Brian Garrison. Portia's pedigree boasts a show-winning (EX-93) dam, Sun-Made GB PLT Pretzel, whose lifetime production has exceeded 158,000M, 7367F, 5734P. Six morecdams stand behind Pretzel, all with lots of production and show winnings. The winning bid came from Katelyn Taylor of Pennsylvania.

Fourth high seller was Blessing Garbro W Portia-ET, a fall calf consigned by Blessing and Garrison of Indiana. She is backed by seven EX dams with production and show winners. Sold for \$5600, the final bid came from Katelyn Taylor of Pennsylvania. Pictured are Cindy Warner, Ellie Widerman at the halter and Ellie's Mom,





RONALD F. EUSTICE PUBLICATIONS

Name of Book	COVER	Price
MAYTAG FARMS: WASHING MACHINES, CLASSIC COWS & BLUE CHEESE	Hardcover	\$65.00
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BOXCAR BOYS: RIDING THE RAILS WITH BOVINE BEAUTIES	Paperback	\$65.00
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FAMOUS FARMERS OF MINNESOTA: VOLUME I	Paperback	\$55.00
FAMOUS FARMERS OF MINNESOTA: VOLUME II	Paperback	\$55.00
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ELMER DAWDY & THE TIDY BURKES	Paperback	\$50.00
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Belleville Livestock Market

26 Sale Barn Lane, Belleville, PA 17004 Every Wednesday.

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fessional, certified veterinarian and a lay person who may have experience with the procedures but is nevertheless uncertified. Problems can arise when an uncertified person performs veterinary work on cows he does not own. Even if he has the permission of the owner, such an action crosses the line. More about that from excerpts of the PVMA press release, dated April 19:

Cow vets

"Some have asserted that the use of ultrasound to diagnose pregnancy in animals does not constitute the practice of veterinary medicine in Pennsylvania. The State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners has determined that pregnancy diagnosis in animals by any method or mode does, indeed, constitute the practice of veterinary medicine.

Most importantly, the diagnosis of pregnancy also means the diagnosis of non-pregnant animals. Non pregnant food animals, as a result of the diagnosis, may be sold for slaughter or treated with pharmaceuticals to synchronize estrus cycles in order to facilitate breeding. Under FDA and Pennsylvania State Board laws, pharmaceuticals can be used only under the prescribing authority of a licensed veterinarian.

Thus, this too, constitutes the practice of veterinary medicine. Since the actions of these individuals involves food safety, this is both an animal welfare concern and a human health concern. Untrained and unlicensed individuals prescribing powerful medications jeopardizes the welfare of the animals and the safety of the food supply. Licensed veterinarians are the only ones educated and qualified to diagnose and prescribe animal medications.

We are saddened that the actions of these individuals have resulted in their incarceration, but the responsibility lies with them and their informed decision to disregard and disrespect the decisions of the court for years.

Forage inoculants

from page 10

around \$9.70/ton, in addition to increased profits from improved milk production when using a high-quality forage inoculant.

Improved dry matter recovery:

Expected DM recovery benefit = 4.2% Assumed value of silage = \$50/ton fresh weight (30% DM)

Value of DM = 167/ton = 1.67 per point of DM. So, a 4.2% improvement is worth 7.01/ton DM = 2.10/ton as fed.

Maintaining stability at feedout (reduced DM loss, reduced dry corn purchases)

4.4% reduction in DM loss = 44 tons/1000 tons DM = 40.2 tons 86% DM dry corn

Value of dry corn = \$133/ton

So, a value of 4.4% less DM loss at feedout = \$5346/1000 tons silage DM (3,333 tons as fed) At 30% DM, value per ton of silage = \$5346/3333 = \$1.60/ton

Improved TMR stability

High-quality inoculants can have greater stability than 5 to 10 lbs. of bunk stabilizers

/ton as fed

Generic bunk stabilizer price = \$1.20/lb.; cost per ton TMR as fed = \$6 to \$12. So, savings per ton of silage = \$6 to \$12 /ton as fed (assume \$6.00). Total ROI = \$9.70/ton

It's important to remember that high-quality inoculants and preservatives cannot make up for poor crop management or poor-quality harvest due to less-than-desirable growing and harvesting conditions. When harvesting forage, the primary goals should always focus on targeting the appropriate stage of maturity and moisture content, while managing the harvest, storage and feedout process. Optimizing forage quality at harvest allows inoculants and preservatives to capitalize on their duties, translating to increased profitability and efficiency for the producer.

• About the authors: Employed by Hubbard Feeds, Ben Jensen is silage treatment specialist; John Pretz, PhD, is dairy nutritionist.



Congratulates Katelyn Heckman Paige Peiffer Ainsley Sellers

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Markets

Livestock Auction

April 30, 2024		
Mixed hay	2.50-5.00	
Orchard	2.50-2.75	
Grass	3.50-7.75	
Straw	4.00-5.50	

Morrison's Cove Auction

April 29 , 2024	
Mixed hay	150-18
Round bales	80-150

Wolgemuth Auction

April 29, 2024		
Alflafa	70-355	
Mixed hay	60-410	
Timothy	130-230	
Grass	145-275	
Straw	135-170	
Orchard	100-330	

Dewart Auction

Dewart, Pa

April 29, 202	4
Cattle: 156	
Slaughter cows:	
PrmWht 65-75% lead	n135-143
Breakers 75-80% lea	ın
	119-136
Boners 80-85% lean	109-132
Lean 85-90% lean	96-122
Slaughter bulls	118-148
Feeder cattle:	
Steers:	
M/L-1-2	127-190
Calves: 325	
Feeder calves:	
#1 Hol bulls	525-620
#2 Hol bulls	400-530

200-450

300-450

30-70

#3 Hol bulls

Utility bulls

Hol heifers

M/L-1

M/L-2

L-3

Heifers:

M/L-1

Holstein steers:

le	Steers:						
	Good						
a.	Heifers:						
April 29, 2024							
	Cows:						
	Util/Comme						
	Can/LoCut						
190-192	Feeder cattl						
184-188	Steers						
167-183	Bulls						
	Heifers						
155-163	Calves: 88						
150-153	Choice						
	Good						
184-186	Standard						
178-183	Hol bulls						
	Hol heifers						
n	noi neilers						
113-144	Wyal						
103-124	Lives						
72-100							
140-172	Wyd						
	Apr						
	Holstein cal						
	190-192 184-188 167-183 155-163 150-153 184-186 178-183 n 113-144 103-124 72-100						

175-260

140-195

117.50-180

170-215

M/L-2	145-205
Bulls:	
M/L-1	180-220
M/L-2	130-180
Calves: 326	
Feeder calves:	
#1 Hol bulls	570-730
#2 Hol bulls	520-575
#3 Hol bulls	210-410
Utility bulls	50-160

Hosking Sales

460-530

300-400

#1 Hol heifers

#2 Hol heifers

Cattle

Dairy cows

New Berlin, N.Y. April 29, 2024

Bone utility	.90-1.32
Canners & cutters	.8595
Easy cows	.70 & down
Bulls over 1100#	1.33-1.50
Feeders:	
Dairy	1.14-1.35
Bulls	1.20-1.22
Heifers	1.71-1.97
Steers	1.16-1.72
Calves:	

Livestock Auction

Bull

Heifer

Hackettstown, N.J. April 30, 2024

top 6.00

top 4.45

Calves	.50-5.05
Cows	1.01-1.34
Feeders	.80-3.00
Heifers	.90-1.38

Morrison's Cove

Martinsburg, Pa.

April 29, 2024 Cattle: 61 145-155 145-160

110-118 ercial 80-105 220-275 210-260 200-240 200-240 180-210 5-50

SKIM MILK POWDER (SMP)

N/A

using tock

400-700 300-500

yalusing, Pa. oril 29, 2024 70-89 lbs. 3.50-5.50 90-110 lbs. 3.00-5.50 Feeder cattle: 200-300 lbs. 1.10-4.50 301-500 lbs. 1.30-4.50 501-700 lbs. .90-1.60

CDE DAIRY MARKETS & MANAGEMENT UPDATE

All prices — MAY 1, 2024 — except where noted

Class III prices increasing: The March margin under USDA's Dairy is a Federal Crop Insurance Margin Coverage Program was announced just after the enrollment for program that is implemented the 2024 Program closed. The margin is 15 cents above the maximum and administered by the US-\$9.50 margin coverage level, announced at \$9.65 per cwt, the highest DA's Risk Management Agensince Dec. 2022. March's all-milk price was announced at \$20.70 per cwt., up 10 cents from February, while feed costs fell 11 cents to \$11.05 per cwt. Corn prices were flat month over month, while both alfalfa tion without having to give up the top side of the market if milk price hay and soybean prices were down slightly. Looking ahead, the DMC Decision Tool is forecasting margins to stay above the \$9.50 level for the remainder of the year.

In the last month, Class III futures prices for the last three quarters of 2024 are up about \$1.08, on average, with the greatest increases in near term milk prices. The April 2024 Class III price went off the board at \$15.52 per cwt., but May jumped to \$18.38, based on April 30 futures. Class IV futures had a slight bump since the beginning of April, but still hover between \$20 and \$21 for the remainder of the year.

USDA's Cold Storage Report, released last week, shows stocks of both butter and cheese increased month over month. Butter stocks were up 6% from a month ago and 2% from a year ago to 316.63 million pounds. The increase in butter stocks is slightly higher than the 5-year average build up for Feb. to March.

Total cheese inventories were fairly flat, increasing 0.1% from a month ago to 1.46 billion pounds. Typically, cheese inventories grow significantly between Feb. and March, but an increase in export sales offset by slower cheese manufacturing during the month kept the growth to a minimum. American cheese inventories were down 0.6% from Feb. at 825.6 million pounds, while Mozzarella production was up 0.8%. Slower than expected growth in cheese stocks could be part of the reason for the recent increase in Class III milk prices.

With prices on the CME fairly strong right now compared to recent months, now might be a good time to consider using Dairy Revenue Protection (DRP) to provide market-based coverage for your dairy. DRP

Prices change daily. This market information is an example for educational purposes. The market data below are compiled weekly by Farmshine, via CME & USDA reports

cy. DRP insurance guarantees a



minimum quarterly revenue for up to 100% of quarterly milk producstarts increasing again.

A benefit to DRP is that premiums are subsidized by 44% up to 55%, depending on the price protection amount chosen by the dairy farmer. Policies are available nearly every day that milk production is traded on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) with a few exceptions. Policies are available up to 5 months in advance. Currently, policies for third quarter 2024 through third quarter 2025 are available for purchase. DRP is highly customizable and can be made to closely match your milk check. The two options available are the Class option or Component option. It essentially sets a floor on your milk price, based on where the market is when you lock in your price.

While DMC enrollment has closed for 2024, you can still take advantage of DRP to protect your milk margins. DRP policies can be purchased through an authorized insurance provider, like your crop insurance agent. Some dairy cooperatives also have staff members authorized to provide DRP policies to dairy farmers. Coverage for the third quarter of 2024 is available through June 15. To learn more, contact your crop insurance agent or contact your milk marketing cooperative.

The Center for Dairy Excellence continues to work to keep dairy farmers and other stakeholders informed about emerging HPAI in dairy cattle. With USDA announcing a Federal Order requiring pre-testing on interstate travel of lactating dairy cows and mandatory reporting of positive HPAI tests, it is important that all farms understand the requirements and how to best protect their dairies against potential spread. Join our weekly Dairy Industry Calls on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. Dial 301-715-8592 to join the call and use 813 6659 8116 as the Meeting ID and 162069 as the Passcode.

CME DAILY FUTURES & OPTIONS TRADING - MAY 1, 2024 AT THE CLOSE

	MAY-24	JUN-24	JUL-24	AUG-24	SEP-24	OCT-24	NOV-24	DEC-24	JAN-25	FEB-25	MAR-25	APR-25	TREND
	CLASS III MI	LK FUTURES (\$/	CWT) vs. wk ag	o: 2024 contra	acts up \$0.20)-0.60 with ful	l advance for	May through S	Sep.; Jan-Apr2	25 up \$0.05-	0.10 .	12-Month Av	g. 18.50↑↑
N	18.35	18.53	18.83	18.88	19.05	18.95	18.65	18.30	18.10	18.10	18.10	18.10	11
4	CLASS IV MII	LK FUTURES (\$/	CWT) vs. wk ag	o: May-Sep24	firm to \$0.15	higher, Oct24	I-Apr25 dowr	\$0.10-0.20.				12-Month Av	/g. 20.64↓↓
)	20 11	20.34	20.62	20.85	21 16	21 21	21 29	21 05	20 47	20.58	20 25	19 75	MIXED

MILK BASIS (MAILBOX minus CLASS 3 \$/CWT) 2018-23 AVG FOR NORTHEAST & MIDEAST STATES OF PA, NY, NEW ENGL., OH vs. NAT'L AVERAGE - YOUR INDIVIDUAL BASIS WILL VARY 18.52 18.15 18.68 18.38 18.65 18.35 18.62 18.41 19.27 18.75 20.20 19.76 20.58 20.17 20.25 19.64 19.22 18.75 18.82 18.25 18.96 18.48 18.64 18.27 Mailbox Class III 17.33 17.33 18.16 18.16 18.16 18.16 17.59 17.59 17.60 17.60 18.72 18.72 19.07 19.07 17.30 17.30 16.81 16.81 16.03 16.03 16.03 16.98 17.31 17.31 BA

BASIS	1.19 0.82	0.52 0.22	0.49 0.19	1.03 0.82	2 1.67 1.13	5 1.48 1.	04 1.51	1.10 2.95	2.34 2.41	1.94 2.79	2.22 1.9	8 1.50 1.33	0.96
	CORN FUTUR	RES (\$/BU))										
A	MAY-24	JUL-24	SEP-24	DEC-24	MAR-25	MAY-25	JUL-25	SEP-25	DEC-25	MAR-26	MAY-26	JUL-26	TREND
	4.432	4.506	4.590	4.726	4.864			4.826				5.050	11
		4.484	4.582		4.860			4.832				5.034	
	SOYMEAL FL	JTURES (\$/	TON)										
5/0 ()	MAY-24	JUL-24	AUG-24	SEP-24	OCT-24	DEC-24	JAN-25	MAR-25	MAY-25	JUL-25	AUG-25	SEP-25	TREND
	342.6							354.0					† †
188		349.2						351.7			352.9		
-	U.S. AVG PREI			,			,			,		EB-24 *MAR	-24

DMC OFFICIAL GROSS MARGINS per cwt(USDA All-Milk, com, alfalfa & III. soybean, feed for ALL CLASSES of dairy cattle on farm) Updated with NEW prem. alfalfa feed cost DMC NOV-22 DEC-22 JAN-23 FEB-23 MAR-23 APR-23 MAY-23 JUN-23 JUL-23 AUG-23 SEP-23 OCT-23 NOV-23 DEC-23 JAN-24 FEB-24 *MAR-24

296.50 266.60 297.25 277.00 290.00 292.86 244.27 254.92 243.50 238.50 217.82 240.41 231.70 254.85 224.50 *205.02

1	0.89	9.76	7.94	6.19	6.08	5.84	4.83	3.65	3.52	6.46	8.44	9.44	9.58	8.44	8.48	9.44	*9.65	TT
ALL MILK	25.60	24.70	23.10	21.60	21.10	20.70	19.30	17.90	17.40	19.70	21.00	21.60	21.70	20.60	20.10	20.60	20.70	
FEED\$	14.71	14.94	15.16	15.41	15.02	14.86	14.47	14.25	13.88	13.24	12.56	12.16	12.12	12.16	11.62	11.16	11.05	
DAIRY C	оммо	DITIES - C	GLOBAL D	AIRY TE	RADE BIWE	EKLY INT	ERNET AUCT	ION 04	/16/24	U	.S. CME CA	SH MAR	KET (\$/I	B) 05/	01/24		A JAN-24 N	
GDT QU	OTES A	VERAGE	OF FORV	/ARD C	ONTRACT	S 1-6 mo	s. forward, p	oer me	tric ton		ME QUOTES !						MLK BF "MA 4.60 3.97 \$ 2	
ALL-PRO	DUCT	INDEX	359	0 11 0	0.1%	BUTTERN	MILK POWDER	N/A			GRADE A N	IFDM		LDS 1.12			4.40 4.14 \$2	
WHOLE	MILK PO	WDER (WI	MP) 326	9 11 (0.4%	BUTTER		654	6 ↓↓ 1.4	%	DRY WHEY			LDS 0.3			4.50 4.23 \$2 2.00 4.37 \$2	
		DER (SME	,	1 LING	CHANGED	CHEDDA	R (BULK)	3974	1 ↓↓ 8.5	%	BUTTER		7	LDS 3.00	050 TT		1.30 4.24 \$2	

2541 UNCHANGED

YFAR AGO ---

84.00

98.75

	S MILKFAT (AMF)		11 1.7%		LLA (BÚLK) 3	755 ↓↓ 3.8% 740 ↓↓ 1.3%	СНІ					1.767511 1.855011	*IN *OH *NY	\$21.60 4.23 1 \$21.10 4.21 7 \$21.60 4.32	\$20.46 \$20.44 \$20.24
			•	\$/CWT) NASS		CURRENT FEI WEIGHTED AVG.				\$/L	,	W 2024	•MC	\$19.90 4.36	\$19.96 \$19.51
				*ALL-MILK-U.S R) * 20.70 (MAR) 11 4.28F		PRODUCT VA	ALUE I	MAKE ALLO	W NET		СОМР	ONENTS	*U.	\$20.40 4.26 S. \$20.10 4.35 OR \$21.90 4.49	\$19.14
19.18	20.12	<i>MO</i> 16.34	NTH AGO 20.09	4.28F 20.60 4.30F		*CHEESE 1.5 *BUTTER 2.9						0.8345↓↓	+C.A +TX	\$20.00 4.28 \$20.50 4.51	\$18.52 \$18.38
		YEA	AR AGO			* NFDM 1.1	506	0.1678	0.9828	Ħ	*N.FAT	0.9730↓↓	*W	KS\$19.40 4.51 \$18.00 4.29 \$18.60 4.60	\$18.00
19.57	19.20				21.70 4.14F	*DRYWHEY0.4						0.2367↓↓	*IA	\$18.30 4.50 1 \$19.00 4.22	\$17.88
						by USDA Monthly N							4 EED	04 444 5 0	

	DEC-22	JAN-23	FEB-23	MAR-23	APR-23	MAY-23	JUN-23	JUL-23	AUG-23	SEP-23	OCT-23	NOV-23	DEC-23	JAN-24	FEB-24	*MAR-24	
	1300	1250	1352	1342	1330	1400	1559	1502	1540	1500	1741	2108	N/A	1635	N/A	*N/A	
	U.S. AVG.	. FRESH CO	DWS per h	ead as rep	orted by US	SDA Monthly	National E	Dairy Comp	orehensive l	Report							
	1531	1436	1487	1493	1544	1469	1792	1615	1634	1643	1830	1988	*N/A	1792	N/A	*N/A	
9	CATTLE-	DAIRY PU	RPOSES((\$/HD) US	DA Reports	5DA Monthly 1469 5, little data a	vailable, l	Northeast,	Southeast	, Mideast,	Midwest d	lispersal 8	auction re	port avera	ges (4-we	ek avg Apr. 2	(0)
		FR	ESH HE	EIFERS:	Bred Spi	ringing Bee	efx Oper	n: 300-600	lbs Beef X	600-900	lbs Beef	X 900-110	0 lbs BL	JLLS(800-13	00lbs)		

2550 1950 2275 2600 800 975 N/A N/A 1150

					\	VEAD AGO						
Price	17	20 (NASS)	1425	1505	1475	N/A	N/A	N/A		045		
rages do include ver-end	PA Auction IV	larkets Apr.	25-30, 202		FED HOLSTEIN	STEERS (\$/C	WT LIVEWEIGHT)	CURRENT	Hol x Beef	WEEK AGO	YR AGO	
mmon'	CULL MARKET Premium White	Breakers		Lean	Choice & Prime		9			160.00 172.75		
erage		126.25 11	119.10↓↓	106.75↓↓	BULL CALVES:		0-130 lbs 0-85 lbs	550.00 650.00		580.00 775.00 700.00 850.00		
rerage high essing	N/A		30 119.35				broua	ht to vou b	IV:			_





Classifieds

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they're sending only the best! We are selling 30 Holstein cows including several R&W cows as well as heifers from breeding age up to springers. Well framed with great udder promise! These cows are averaging 75 lbs. 4.1F 3.2P and low SCC, with mostly 1st and 2nd lac.! Great udders, feet and legs! The cows are A.I. sired using good feet and leg bulls, with high components and good milk! Regular foot trimming program with no sore feet! The Martins have a growing greenhouse business

Thurs., May 16 @ 7:15 P.M.

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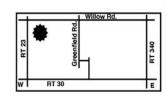
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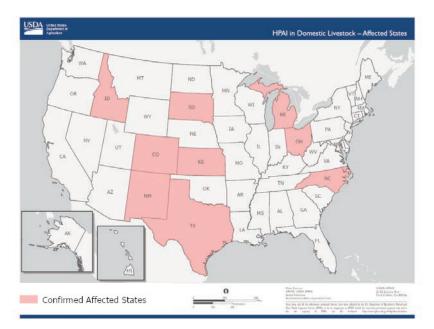
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HPAI spreads

. from page 11

bition (show) and rodeo.

With the HPAI pre-movement testing for interstate movement of lactating dairy cows and the mandatory E-ID at the same time, crossing state lines for shows and sales now require additional documentation.

According to Dr. Hovingh, the state PADLS system promises a 3-day turnaround on pre-movement testing, which has to be done within 7 days of interstate transport. "But we think we can do same day turnaround, depending on volumes submitted."

He urged producers planning herd dispersal sales to give a heads up as they prepare to "get their ducks in a row" so cattle can move on to buyers from other states on sale day.

Hovingh said now is the time for Pennsylvania dairy farmers to get their biosecurity plans in place, so they have that box checked in the event of an HPAI detection and quarantine in the state. Ap-

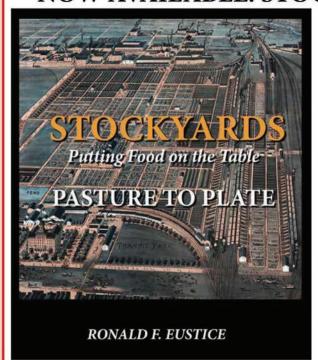
proved biosecurity plans would be required for those 30-day milk movement permits that are part of the state's response.

It's also important for farmers suspecting HPAI, to report it. "We'll come out and test," said Hamberg. "Our concern is that if cattle transmit it to poultry, those flocks are depopulated and control areas are set up. Following through is essential for both our dairy and poultry industries."

Hovingh said species segregation is important on farms with both dairy cows and poultry, and biosecurity is essential for personnel tending both. The new twist is clean clothes and a shower go beyond clean boots to keep from exposing poultry to any raw milk on clothing, hands etc.

The Center for Dairy Excellence has recordings of HPAI update calls and links to resources at www.centerfordairyexcellence.org/hpai-industry-call/

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