

FARM SHINE

We rise every week to cover farmers and agribusinesses

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February 28, 2025

This could be the most important article that you will ever read!

Ron Hanson was the keynote speaker at the First Citizens Community Bank Ag Forum recently. He has counseled farm families over four decades to help them resolve family conflicts and improve communication, especially for farm ownership succession planning and managing the transition between generations.

Photos by Sherry Bunting



FARM OWNERSHIP TRANSITION MANAGEMENT

Tough truths and wise words brought to FCCB Ag Forum

By SHERRY BUNTING
Special for Farmshine

LEBANON, Pa. – Since the beginning of time there have been tensions around land and its transition in families – all the way back to Bible times.

Farm ownership transition management through generations has likely never been more important than it is today, according to Ron Hanson, University of Nebraska ag professor and keynote speaker during the First Citizens Community Bank (FCCB) Ag Forum Feb. 19 at the Lebanon Expo Center.

The lunch hour highlighted Pennsylvania farm families forging new paths in agricul-

ture, and the program included a panel featuring farm families in dairy and poultry – Pennsylvania's top two agricultural commodities. They shared their personal stories in the afternoon.

“Look around at the farms in our rural communities, 70% of this land will change hands in the next 15 years. Think about that,” he told the over 300 farmers and family members gathered.

“I came here today to save a farm, to keep a family out of a legal fight. I came to help, but I won't make a single friend here because I'll be brutally honest,” Hanson says, sharing his personal story that

motivates him to spend personal time helping farm families transition.

Few important business decisions on the farm are fraught with more pitfalls and fears to navigate than the process that allows farmers to protect their farm, their family, and their legacy.

“We lost a farm. We destroyed a family. I was 16 years of age the night it happened a week before Christmas,” he shares as he covered the common mistakes that he experienced growing up on an Illinois farm and has seen first-hand over four decades of working with farm families.

Pointing out the many young people in at-

tendance, including two tables of FFA students, he says these are the future leaders of rural communities: “When transition is possible, we keep farms in the family for future generations of young and beginning farmers.”

The biggest mistake is not beginning the succession planning process before the unexpected happens.

“These are issues that most families do not want to discuss, but if you have a family farm legacy, you have got to find a way to sit down and talk about those issues,” he stresses, citing a recent AgriLegacy survey showing 80% of farmers want to have a plan, but less than

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PERIODICAL • DO NOT DELAY

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Attention students!
HAUSA seeks intern for June's convention
Must apply by March 21!

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. — Holstein Association USA is offering an internship, an exceptional opportunity for students pursuing careers in dairy, agriculture, or communications-related fields. This internship will take place from June 20 to July 3, and include a trip to the National Holstein Convention, to be held June 23-26, in St. Louis, Mo.

"If you're a creative, organized, and driven individual looking to gain hands-on experience in event planning, media coverage, and communications, we hope you'll consider applying for this internship," says Emily Bosch, senior communications manager at Holstein Association USA. "National Holstein Convention provides a fun, fast-paced, and professional environment to level up your communication skills and gain hands-on experience."

The intern will work alongside Holstein Association USA's communications team to cover convention activities and award winners and assist with event operations. From creating engaging social media content to writing press releases and assisting with photography, this role offers a wide range of communication experiences.

Intern qualifications:

Familiarity with design programs such as Canva or Adobe Suite; photography experience and a knack for capturing compelling visuals; a positive, team-oriented attitude and strong organizational skills.

Compensation includes a competitive hourly rate, with all transportation, meals, and lodging during the convention covered.

Additional requirements: Interns must have a working laptop and smartphone, be available for 10 hours of paid remote training in May and June 2025, and must not be a 2025 Distinguished Junior member semifinalist, Junior Advisory Committee member, or competing in Dairy Bowl or Dairy Jeopardy during National Holstein Convention.

How to apply: Interested candidates must submit their applications by March 21, 2025. Applicants should send a resume and cover letter to employment@holstein.com. For the full job description and additional information, visit www.holsteinusa.com/association/employment.html.

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Matt is the 'cow guy' of the extended Nealy family as they operate the third generation Nealand Farms, milking 400 cows near Newville, Pennsylvania, recognized by their cooperative for outstanding milk quality and animal care.

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Roof failures follow massive snow event in central N.Y.

By SHERRY BUNTING
Special for Farmshine

PALERMO, N.Y. — As central New York digs out of a massive snow event — on top of what is being called a top-10 year for area snowfall totals — a rash of roof collapses have followed, including dairy barns, in Oswego, Oneida, and Jefferson counties, and beyond.

In Oswego County, officials confirm at least 27 structures had collapsed Feb. 16 through 26, including the Barnevald Fire Station, a church, businesses, equipment sheds, homes, horse barns, greenhouses, and facilities with livestock.

National Weather Service statistics show the Oswego County town of Palermo, for example, received 119 inches of snow from the start of 2025 through Feb. 20th. This includes nearly 80 inches just from Friday, Feb. 14 through Wednesday, Feb. 19.

The six-day lake-effect snowstorm came with high winds, adding to what was already above average snowfall, with little chance for thaw. Below average temps prevailed until Feb. 24, when the high of 47 degrees F. was reached.

At this writing, *Farmshine* has been notified of at least six dairies with collapsed barns across three New York counties, including some deemed a total loss. This ranges from barns with 50 cows to over 500. For some, the losses of cattle and other livestock are still being counted. Additionally, the bru-



First responders and volunteers assist the Pedersen family in a barn collapse at the dairy in Lee Center that claimed up to 60 cows.
Photo provided

tal winter may have played a role in several business and farm fires in the area.

The region has not caught a break. In fact, WKTV meteorologist Eric Cage reports that following the first “thaw” on Feb. 24 since the start of 2025, some melting is occurring, making roof snowpacks heavier, with more precipitation on tap this week and a return to frigid temperatures in the first days of March just ahead. The long-range forecast could hold some warm up “here and there.”

Officials fear the number of collapses could rise as snow sits and absorbs more precipitation. Several county-wide emergencies have been declared by the legislature, and the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control has deployed a specialized team to assist in structural collapse rescues.

Last week, *Farmshine* reported on the collapse at Insight Dairy, owned and operated by Jessica Hula-Frederick and her husband Chris near Little Falls, where rebuilding is un-

derway this week after days of community volunteers and building crews combing through and clearing the rubble and tending to lost and injured cattle.

More roof collapses were reported this week. In some, cattle were moved without injury; others resulted in animal losses. There are too many to list all of what farms are enduring, but here are a few examples.

In Oneida County, Richard Pedersen, Sr. **turn to page 18**



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Farmshine Editorials

By Dieter Krieg
Farmshine Editor



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

— Thomas Paine

Some clowns don't make us laugh; please defund DMI!

Thank God — *and we do mean it* — the very worst clowns in U.S. history are no longer in the political circus ... more commonly known as Washington, DC. (t added intentionally).

While we have known of horrible decisions being made at USDA since the Obama Administration's directive to take all but skim milk out of the nation's public schools in 2010, we were not aware of what the Biden Administration's USDA had in store for us in 2025.

Thanks to Sherry Bunting, who looked into the (now being altered) USDA agenda, we've become very aware of how totally-villainous Villain Vilsack would have used his budget for illegitimate and ineligible purposes ... primarily to line the pockets of his buddies as well as his own. His USDA spending plan included 100 million dollars for consulting firms, Sherry reports in an article on page 5.

The sinister findings, as per Sherry:

“We find the bulk of the \$132 million in savings comes from terminating four separate USDA contracts with four separate consulting firms, three based in the Capital Beltway region and one in Atlanta, Georgia. Each firm received awards of \$25 million with a start date of Sept. 30, 2023.

These four contracts, totaling \$100 million, were for “Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) assessment and training services” within the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), which runs federal feeding programs like National School Lunch, WIC, and SNAP.

(Just think how much whole milk could be purchased for schools with those \$100 million dollars! Remember, former Ag Sec. Vilsack was asked by a reporters last year if he supported the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act.

“Schools can't afford whole milk anyway,” Vilsack replied, while earmarking tens of millions of FNS tax dollars to Beltway consulting firms for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training.

Conclusion: What a clown! What a traitor! What a disgrace! What a textbook example of boundless and unconscionable misconduct! And it's a rock-solid safe bet that were he still at USDA, dairy as we know it would be firmly on the chopping block. Destroying animal agriculture was one of his primary goals.

Thank God, Supreme Villain Vilsack is out, as is his despicable do-nothing-for-farmers partner / clown in public service abuse, former Senate Majority Leader Debbie Stabenow, a Demorat from Michigan.

Nevertheless, the list of departed shysters is short compared to the roster Vilsack was instrumental in installing at DMI (Dairy Management, Inc.) colloquially referred to as Dairy Mafia, Inc. They have been ripping off dairy farmers through the mandatory dairy checkoff for most of its 40 years of existence ... a USDA-created and controlled entity, by the way.

DMI has done nothing at all in the areas of dairy promotion or dairy education. Instead, they keep churning out self-serving propaganda to give the impression that they're advancing dairy with “science-based” research, products and partnerships. They choose to ignore the fresh, natural and wholesome original. How any God-fearing individual can involve himself or herself in such nonsense and betrayal is beyond our comprehension.

We have spent the past seven years exposing this notorious Chicago gang for what it is: Highly paid at the top (mil-

lions of dollars) and nothing good or useful to show for it. As we've noted numerous times over the years, thanks to DMI, dairy producers are paying for their own demise.

Isn't it obvious that DMI should be dismantled and defunded?

The sooner the better!



Lakin Friedline, left, and Josie Smiley will be bringing their banner to the National Holstein Convention in June. For results of other PJHA contests, please see pages 12-13.

This banner was made for a trip to Missouri

GETTYSBURG, Pa. — The Pennsylvania Junior Holstein Association annually sponsors a Banner Contest for its members who wish to design and develop a banner that promotes and highlights the activities of the Pennsylvania Junior Holstein Association. The winning banner design announced at the State Holstein convention in Gettysburg on February 7th was created by Josie Smiley and Lakin Friedline of Somerset County.

Their banner will be entered in the National Junior Banner Contest to be held during the National Junior Holstein Convention in St. Louis, Mo. in June.

WHAT'S NEXT?

While none of us knows for sure exactly what is in the future for the dairy industry, change is coming.

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DOGE review of Ag. Sec. Vilsack's USDA contracts continues

By SHERRY BUNTING
Special for Farmshine

WASHINGTON -- The Feb. 21 edition of *Farmshine* reported on the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) review of the USDA. We made inquiries after a Feb. 14 press release cited \$132 million in savings via 78 USDA contract terminations, with 1000 contracts still under review.

We wanted to know more after a few dairy farmers reported concerns about conservation project grants they were expecting.

The truth is no conservation grants are impacted that are attributable to the farm bill through EQIP and NRCS.

The Department of Government Efficiency is reviewing USDA contracts from the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Climate-Smart Partnership projects.

What we've learned is that the Trump Administration does not intend to terminate any funds pledged directly to support farmers. In fact, release of the first batch of 'paused' funds has already begun.

Here's the rest of the story after the USDA press office turned *Farmshine's* Feb. 18 inquiry over to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) officer.

On Feb. 19, we received a follow up email from the helpful government information specialist, providing additional information and a link to <https://doqe.gov/savings>, where all terminated contracts from all federal agencies are updated twice a week.

The site ranked USDA 7th among the top 10 federal agencies in the amount of DoGE review savings as of Feb. 24.

The list of contract terminations includes zero on-farm conservation projects.

Furthermore, we find the bulk of the \$132 million in savings comes from terminating four separate USDA contracts with four separate consulting firms, three based in the Capital Beltway region and one in Atlanta, Georgia. Each firm received awards of \$25 million with a start date Sept. 30, 2023.

These four contracts, totaling \$100 million, were for "Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) assessment and training services" within the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), which runs federal feeding programs like National School Lunch, WIC, and SNAP.

(Just think how much whole milk could be purchased for schools with those \$100 million dollars! Remember, former Ag Sec. Vilsack was asked by a reporters last year if he supported the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act.

"Schools can't afford whole milk anyway," Vilsack replied, while earmarking tens of millions of FNS tax dollars to Beltway consulting firms for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training.

Meanwhile, restoring the choice of real, nutritious, delicious whole milk in schools would include more children

in restoration of nutritional equity among the diversity of economically disadvantaged families in this country, whose kids rely on school meals!)

The list also reveals cancellation of a \$34M contract with another Beltway research and consulting firm for "service strategy planning and business capabilities" of which over \$17M had not yet been spent.

Also axed was the \$2M remaining on a \$10.2M contract with a Vermont consulting firm to provide "environmental compliance services for the implementation of pilot projects developed under the Partnership for Climate-Smart Commodities." Although most of

this award has already been paid, its termination prevents additional orders and provides an idea of what the current administration may nix during DoGE review.

Additionally, a \$7.5M contract to a Beltway communications firm was also terminated. It was a "blanket purchase agreement to assist the USDA Forest Service in delivering a broad range of culturally and linguistically relevant communications and marketing services."

While it is true that funding for some USDA Climate-Smart projects remains paused, some funds were released two days after our initial inquiry.

On Feb. 20, USDA announced \$20 million released for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), the Conservation Stewardship Program, and the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, citing a White House directive, working with Ag Secretary Brooke Rollins, to honor the USDA contracts that were already made directly to farmers.

"This is the first tranche released from the pause while contract reviews continue to ensure that we honor our sacred obligation to American taxpayers — and to ensure that programs are focused on supporting farmers and ranchers, not DEIA programs or far-left climate programs," the USDA reported.

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Auction Guide

MARCH 5, 10:30 a.m. Dairy Cow & Heifer Sale, New Holland Sales Stables, New Holland, Pa. Sale managed by New Holland Sales Stables.

MARCH 6, 10 a.m. Know What You Buy Heifer Sale, Middletown, Pa. Sale managed by Pa. Holstein Association.

MARCH 7, 10 a.m. Watson-Hamblin Farm Dispersal, Columbia Cross Roads, Pa. Sale managed by Fraley Auction Company.

MARCH 7, 12 p.m. Special Driving & Draft Horse Sale, New Holland Sales Stables, New Holland, Pa. Sale managed by New Holland Sales Stables.

MARCH 7, 7 p.m. 2025 Ohio Holstein Convention Virtual Sale, Wooster, Ohio. Sale managed by Daniel Brandt Pedigrees.

MARCH 8, 8 a.m. Eklund's Big Winter Auction, Stamford, N.Y. Sale managed by RTI Auctions.

MARCH 8, 11 a.m. Hard Core Selection Sale VIII, Fraley's Dairy Complex, Muncy, Pa. Sale managed by Fraley Auction Company.

MARCH 14, 1st Impressions At The Interstate IV. Sale co-managed by Interstate Heifer Care & MD Hillbrook.

MARCH 14, 10 a.m. Special Dairy Sale, Fisher's Quality Dairy Sales, Ronks, Pa. Sale managed by Fisher's Quality Dairy Sales.

MARCH 14, 6 p.m. Horse Sale, Kish Valley Dairy Sales, Belleville, Pa. Sale managed by Kish Valley Dairy Sales.

MARCH 18, 11 a.m. Spring Oppor-

tunities at Pine-Tree II, Brown Swiss & Jersey Edition, Wooster, Ohio. Sale managed by Modern Associates.

MARCH 20, 10 a.m. Special Dairy Cow & Heifer Sale, Brubacker's Quality Dairy Sales, Shippensburg, Pa. Sale managed by Brubacker's Quality Dairy Sales.

MARCH 21, 1 p.m. Monthly Dairy Sale, Kish Valley Dairy Sales, Belleville, Pa. Sale managed by Kish Valley Dairy Sales.

MARCH 22, Spring Premier All-Breed Dairy Sale, Hosking Sales, New Berlin, N.Y. Sale managed by Hosking Sales.

MARCH 22, 10 a.m. Northeast Ohio Equipment Consignment Auction, Leavittsburg, Ohio. Sale managed by RES Auction Services.

MARCH 22, 11 a.m. DVU Green & Gold Sale, Doylestown, Pa. Sale managed by Pa. Holstein Association.

APRIL 4, 11 a.m. GTPI-Type Sale, Leola, Pa. Sale co-managed by Landis Marketing & Daniel Brandt Pedigrees & Marketing.

APRIL 12, 11:30 a.m. Pride of Posthaven Reduction Sale, Hobart, N.Y. Sale managed by Hosking Sales.

APRIL 19, Annual Spring Machinery Auction, Hosking Sales, New Berlin, N.Y. Sale managed by Hosking Sales.

JUNE 14, 12 p.m. Cheers To Thirty Years Of Hosking Sales, Hosking Sales, New Berlin, N.Y. Sale managed by Hosking Sales.

Consignments invited for the 'GTPI/Type' Sale

LANCASTER, Pa. — The 17th edition of the "GTPI/Type Sale" is scheduled for Friday, April 4, at 11 a.m., at the Landis-MRK barn, Route 272, north of Lancaster. Sale selections have been ongoing since the first of the year.

Sale manager Bob Landis says sale attendees can expect to see the highest quality, young, full pedigree cows and bred heifers, many of which will be able to compete at high levels of competition. Show-age calves sell from today's popular

sires as well as choices of flush and embryo lots. The "GTPI/Type Sale" series has produced many national and state show winners as well as high genomic stars over the years, and this year will be no exception.

Sale selections are coming in beautifully and will be ongoing until March 10th.

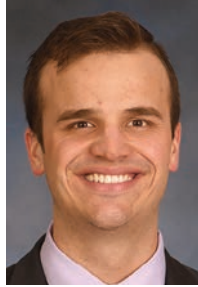
Please contact Bob Landis at 717-413-1232 or Daniel Brandt at 717-821-1238 to consign to the sale.

Talk topic: Managing through droughts and floods

FORT ATKINSON, Wis. The next *Hoard's Dairyman* webinar will take place on Monday, March 10 at 1 p.m. (Eastern time). Kirby Krogstad from Ohio State will present, "Managing through droughts and floods by optimizing low-forage rations."

High-quality forages are the cornerstone of efficient dairy production, but droughts and floods makes quality forages scarce and expensive. This presentation will discuss getting the most from your cows when quality forages are lacking.

There is no cost to register or to view the webinars. To sign up, go online to the *Hoards Dairyman*



Kirby Krogstad

registration page and complete the brief questionnaire on your role in the industry. Once registered, an email reminder is sent with future webinar dates and times, and there is no need to register again. If you are unable to attend a live webinar, they are recorded and can be accessed later on the *Hoard's Dairyman* website under the webcasts' link. All of the previous webinars have been archived and have been seen by over 450,000 viewers.

To learn more about the webinars, visit www.hoards.com/webinars.

Dairyman's Datebook

MARCH 1, 8-10 a.m. Medina County Farm Bureau in Ohio invites members and prospective members to their Member Appreciation Breakfast at the Medina County Schools Career Center, 1101 W. Liberty Street, Medina.

MARCH 4, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Animal care workshop at the Cumberland County Extension Office, 310 Allen Road, Carlisle, Pa. Optional dairy farm tour: Stover Farms.

MARCH 4, 9:30 a.m. Dairy housing workshop in Bradford County, Pa. at the Park Hotel & Brewing Company, 127 Troy Street, Canton.

MARCH 6, 9 a.m. Agricultural Veterinary Associates client appreciation luncheon at Shady Maple Baquet & Event Center, 129 Toddy Drive, East Earl, Pa.

MARCH 7-8, Ohio Holstein Association convention and annual meeting, Best Western Hotel, 243 East Liberty Street, Wooster.

MARCH 8, 8:30 a.m. OSU Extension Small Farm Conference, Ohio State University Wooster Shisler Center, 1680 Madison Ave, Wooster.

MARCH 9-11, National Farmers Union convention, Omni Oklahoma City Hotel, 100 West Oklahoma City Boulevard, Oklahoma City.

MARCH 11, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Animal care workshop at the Lancaster Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, Pa. Optional dairy farm tour: Franklin View Farms LLC.

MARCH 11-12, PDP's Cornerstone Dairy Academy, Alliant Energy Center, 1919 Alliant Energy Center Way, Madison, Wis.

MARCH 13, 8:30 a.m. Western Pennsylvania Grazing Conference, Trinity Point Church of God, 180 West Trinity Drive, Clarion.

MARCH 15, 8-10 a.m. Wayne County (Ohio) Farm Bureau Member Appreciation Breakfast at The Connection Conference and Event Center, 1034 Country Club Drive, Wooster.

MARCH 15, 7 p.m. Bucks County Holstein Club Potluck Dinner, Deep Run Mennonite Church East, 350 Kellers Church Road, Perkasio, Pa.

MARCH 18, 9:30 a.m. Farm Succession Workshop, presented by PA Farm Link at 625 Evan City Road, Butler, Pa.

MARCH 18, 9:30 a.m. Penn State Extension Pasture Workshop, Wyoming County Chamber of Commerce Building, 511 Mile Road, Tunkhannock.

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Spring Opportunities @ Pine-Tree Jersey/Swiss Edition, March 18th

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- #8 – It's a Tuesday Sale, leaving your weekend open for other plans!
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- #6 – Cornerstone genomic program opportunities, treat your IVF program to surge!
- #5 – Easy location, Wayne County Fairgrounds, Wooster, OH...lots of hotels nearby
- #4 – Tours @ Pine-Tree Dairy available, just ask!
- #3 – Great display of cattle (see our new style of group pens for heifers and box stalls for cows)
- #2 – Chance to talk to other breeders, discussions are needed in our current genetic world!
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Pine-Tree Dairy

pinetreedairy@gmail.com

Spring Opportunities @ Pine-Tree (on Facebook)

330-466-9137 (Andrew)

Save The Date Franklin County Youth Dairy Club Calf Sale

April 12 7:00PM

C.V. Antique Engine Showgrounds
Chambersburg, PA

For updates follow our Facebook page
Franklin County Youth Dairy Club Calf Sale 2025
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Chester County Holstein Association's tour leaves March 13

PHOENIXVILLE, Pa. —The Chester County Holstein Association has a bus tour to Maryland planned for Thursday, March 13. Tour stops include:

- **Peace and Plenty Farms**, owned and operated by the Schwartzbeck Family. They have many members of the Jubie, Blex Ann and Rockie cow families and are hosting a sale on March 15 with many animals from their herd as well as guest consignments from Showbox Sires and Duckett Holsteins.

The sale animals will be on display for the tour.

- **MD Maple Dell Farms** is home to 120 milking cows including 45 EX and 37 VG. The Ashlyn family is having a major impact with many VG 2-year-olds and numerous EX 3-year-olds.

- **Pheasant Echoes** is the home of 150 cows living comfortably on a compost bedded pack. Pheasant Echoes Turvey, a World Dairy Expo champion, is having a major im-

act through daughters and granddaughters.

- **Tom Mercuro's** herd features many members of their ATM family. They have successfully shown many cows with numerous All-American nominations. A recent focus on breeding polled, high GTPI cattle has given them many animals in the Top 100 Polled

GTPI list.

Anyone interested in coming along for a day of touring, learning and fellowship with other farmers is welcome. The cost of the tour is \$25; reservations can be made by calling Nathaniel Beiler at 717-598-0563 or Levi Esh at 717-344-7967.





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Maryland Holstein Association in 2025



Maryland Holstein Association invites you to attend the 2025 Holstein Banquet



Friday, March 21



6:00PM
Social hour from 6-7
Dinner at 7



New Windsor Firehall
101 High St, New Windsor, MD 21776

Please join your fellow holstein breeders in a night of fellowship and celebration. Gathering will begin around 6pm for a social hour, followed by dinner and award presentations.

We will honor our scholarship winners, record book winners, the 2025 dairyman award winner, Scott Youse and the All-MD and Jr. All-MD awards. To help conclude the night, please consider donating an item for the fun auction to support the juniors expenses to attend the 2025 National Holstein Convention in St Louis.

Please RSVP by March 10. Tickets are required to attend.



Tickets for the banquet can be purchased online* or by mailing the RSVP form to Laurie Savage.

Please make checks out to Maryland Holstein Association
23301 Mt. Ephraim Rd.
Dickerson, MD 20842

scan me to purchase tickets

*Please note service fees apply when purchasing tickets online.

Name(s): _____

Email: _____

Adult: _____ qty x \$15

Youth (Ages 5-10): _____ qty x \$7

Youth (Ages 4 & under): _____ qty x Free

Total enclosed: \$_____



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NEW HAMPSHIRE

Cheshire

MALNATI VINCENT & CA 97 HO 20218 825 617

Grafton

GRAFTON FARM 57 HO 28882 1240 935
 PATCH FAMILY 98 HO 25207 1146 830
 GRAFTON FARM 10 JE 20275 1022 750
 MINOT, WILLIAM & DIANNE 13 HO 23121 861 732
 MINOT, WILLIAM & DIANNE 17 AY 17529 683 604
HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000
 GRAFTON FARM HO 80 57
 GRAFTON FARM JE 80 10
 MINOT, WILLIAM & DIANNE AY 124 17
 PATCH FAMILY HO 139 98

Merrimack, Belknap

BOHANAN FARM 132 HO 26371 1130 865
HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000
 BOHANAN FARM HO 175 132

Sullivan

PUTNAM FARMS, INC. 426 HO 26183 1154 865
 MACGLAFLIN FARM LLC. 359 HO 26381 1306 843
 PUTNAM FARMS, INC. 62 XX 20342 1044 752
 MACGLAFLIN FARM LLC. 58 XX 20960 1207 742
 MACGLAFLIN FARM LLC. 86 JE 19137 1101 708
 LUTHER, JOHN W. 28 HO 20710 818 688
 CLARK, GREGORY & MARCIA 29 HO 21346 836 668
 CLARK, GREGORY & MARCIA 36 MS 18224 676 574
 LUTHER, JOHN W. 12 JE 14712 747 544
HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000
 CLARK, GREGORY & MARCIA HO 94 29
 LUTHER, JOHN W. HO 104 28
 MACGLAFLIN FARM LLC. XX 118 58
 PUTNAM FARMS, INC. XX 121 62
 MACGLAFLIN FARM LLC. JE 151 86
 MACGLAFLIN FARM LLC. HO 154 359
 CLARK, GREGORY & MARCIA MS 167 36
 PUTNAM FARMS, INC. HO 198 426

VERMONT

Addison

VORSTEVELD FARM 1485 HO 28679 1245 968
 HOWLETT, TIM & JULIE 778 HO 28103 1158 925
 LIVINGSTON, PHIL & DIANE 877 HO 28761 1149 903
 LUCAS, JONATHAN 343 HO 27012 1212 895
 DEGRAAF, HAROLD & ANJE 18 XX 27751 1052 894
 CORREIA, ANTHONY & BARB 400 HO 25308 1105 877
 DEGRAAF, HAROLD & ANJE 182 HO 26075 1060 857
 FIFELED, JEFF & LISE 133 HO 25642 1012 831
 ANDY NOLAN 352 HO 24465 1035 824
 TUDHOPE, MILES & CHERYL 58 HO 24849 1084 813
 TUDHOPE, MILES & CHERYL 56 BS 21498 981 745
HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000
 TUDHOPE, MILES & CHERYL BS 54 56
 TUDHOPE, MILES & CHERYL HO 61 58
 LUCAS, JONATHAN HO 101 343
 PHILLIPS, DANIEL T. XX 107 47
 CORREIA, ANTHONY & BARBARA HO 118 400
 DEGRAAF, HAROLD & ANJE HO 129 182
 ANDY NOLAN HO 130 352
 LIVINGSTON, PHIL & DIANE HO 153 877
 HOWLETT, TIM & JULIE HO 170 778
 VORSTEVELD FARM HO 172 1485
 FIFELED, JEFF & LISE HO 183 133
 DEGRAAF, HAROLD & ANJE XX 190 18

Caledonia

WAYSIDE MEADOW FARM 368 HO 30232 1316 1035
 DON-SIM FARM 109 HO 26264 1073 865
 FREMONT & ETHAN NELSON 228 HO 24563 1061 793
 JAMES W. SEYMOUR 68 HO 22074 997 732
 LUCKY HILL FARM 181 JE 18732 1025 723
 ACKERMANN DAIRY 74 HO 22143 890 710
 FREMONT & ETHAN NELSON 25 XX 18951 885 658
 LAGGIS BROS. 517 JE 17567 929 651
 WILLSON, DOROTHY & A. 90 XX 16415 799 613

HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000
 ACKERMANN DAIRY HO 92 74
 FREMONT & ETHAN NELSON XX 93 25
 LUCKY HILL FARM JE 120 181
 WAYSIDE MEADOW FARM LLC. HO 131 368
 DON-SIM FARM HO 132 109
 FREMONT & ETHAN NELSON HO 135 228
 JAMES W. SEYMOUR HO 144 68
 LAGGIS BROS. JE 169 517
 BEAN, ERIC JE 172 39

Chittenden

CREAM 64 HO 29829 1224 941
 TAFT, BRUCE & MARY 325 JE 19012 1094 726
 SHELburne FARMS 120 BS 16816 736 571
HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000
 SHELburne FARMS BS 99 120

Essex

ROUTHIER & SONS, INC. 321 HO 25300 1140 849
 RUSSO, STEPHEN & CARLA 16 HO 21122 889 676

HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000
 RUSSO, STEPHEN & CARLA HO 64 16
 ROUTHIER & SONS, INC. HO 117 321

Franklin

HOWRIGAN HOME FARM 298 HO 29590 1189 963
 HOWRIGAN, H.J. & A. & LAW 369 HO 27803 1155 911
 HOWRIGAN H-9 DAIRY 357 HO 27225 1075 878
 MIKE BENJAMIN 545 HO 26800 1121 859
 HOWRIGAN, HAROLD J. & SO 362 HO 25194 1081 846
 BALLARD ACRES 242 HO 23974 1053 782
 WRIGHT FARM 205 HO 22875 1043 777
 DEPATIE, JAMES & JESSICA 369 HO 24960 1003 772
 CARPSDALE FARMS LTD. 81 HO 22786 943 743
 DALESTEAD FARM & MAPLE 94 HO 22396 949 711
 PAUL-LIN DAIRY LLC. 25 JE 16014 754 582

HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000
 MIKE BENJAMIN HO 80 545
 BALLARD ACRES HO 91 242
 HOWRIGAN, HAROLD J. & SONS HO 119 362
 PAUL-LIN DAIRY LLC. JE 126 25
 HOWRIGAN, H.J. & A. & LAWRENCE HO 128 369
 HOWRIGAN HOME FARM HO 152 298
 CARPSDALE FARMS LTD. HO 158 81
 DALESTEAD FARM & MAPLE LLC. HO 185 94
 DEPATIE, JAMES & JESSICA HO 189 369
 GREG BOUCHARD XX 196 133

Grand Isle

J. & M. LADD FAMILIES FARM 62 XX 19428 728 599
HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000
 J. & M. LADD FAMILIES FARM XX 137 62

Lamoille

MORRILL, ARTHUR & LARRY 32 HO 20666 916 664
 KEWAYDIN FARM 92 JE 17518 677 502
HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000
 MORRILL, ARTHUR & LARRY HO 57 32
 KEWAYDIN FARM JE 87 92

Orange

GLADSTONE, WALTER & MA 2588 HO 32372 1308 1078
 GLADSTONE, WALTER & MA 55 XX 24610 1244 930
 HARKDALE FARM, INC. 60 HO 25780 1103 861
 ADAM BEAULIEU 60 HO 22305 922 727
 ALLENVILLE FARM 83 HO 22815 919 703
 HARKDALE FARM, INC. 119 JE 18112 993 701
 WHITE ROCK FARM 152 JE 18185 970 660
 ROBERT J. HOWE 27 HO 21565 833 654
 SILLWAY FARMS 67 HO 20100 831 632
 WRIGHT ANDREW 48 XX 15568 718 552
 ROBERT J. HOWE 16 JE 14543 690 521
HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000
 GLADSTONE, WALTER & MARGARE XX 93 55
 HARKDALE FARM, INC. JE 98 119
 GLADSTONE, WALTER & MARGARE HO 104 2588
 ALLENVILLE FARM HO 127 83
 CONANT, DEAN & TERRI AY 132 49
 HARKDALE FARM, INC. HO 137 60
 HOYT, AMBER & SCOTT XX 137 37
 WRIGHT, ANDREW XX 144 48
 OUGHTA-BE-FARM LLP XX 155 55
 WHITE ROCK FARM JE 161 152
 SILLWAY FARMS HO 170 67

HOYT, AMBER & SCOTT JE 194 18

Orleans

ANDY & SARAH BIRCH 42 HO 26596 1165 886
 NADEAU, AARON & CHANTAL 152 HO 24313 1040 771
 BROE, JOHN & DEANNA 24 XX 21991 946 750
 BROE, JOHN & DEANNA 53 XX 21063 971 742
 WEBSTER, DANIEL 90 HO 21238 882 720
 ADAM & JOANNA LIDBACK 43 HO 21922 929 706
 ANDY & SARAH BIRCH 14 XX 20095 971 703
 MICHAUD, J. DENIS & C. 311 HO 22076 896 696
 ANDERSONVILLE FARM LLC. 229 HO 21115 936 693
 LISAL, PAUL 61 XX 19531 978 617
 RANDALL FAMILY FARM 121 HO 18870 762 599
 PADDLEBRIDGE HOLSTEINS 59 HO 19958 764 597
 LATRAVERSE, SEBASTIEN 58 HO 19081 777 592
 ADAM & JOANNA LIDBACK 29 XX 16007 758 572
 PATENAUE, KATE BRACE, DU 204 XX 17708 693 554
 GUILLETTE, MARCY 27 HO 16626 701 511
 WHITTEMORE, DAKOTA 37 JE 13686 755 500

HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000
 ANDREWS, ANDY HO 79 112
 LISAL, PAUL XX 82 61
 BROE, JOHN & DEANNA XX 96 24
 ADAM & JOANNA LIDBACK HO 99 43
 ANDY & SARAH BIRCH HO 114 42
 BROE, JOHN & DEANNA XX 117 53
 DEMAINE, DAN XX 128 40
 ADAM & JOANNA LIDBACK XX 133 29
 ANDERSONVILLE FARM LLC. HO 145 229
 PATENAUE, KATE BRACE, DUST XX 148 204
 RANDALL FAMILY FARM HO 153 121
 PADDLEBRIDGE HOLSTEINS HO 159 59
 LATRAVERSE, SEBASTIEN HO 160 58
 NADEAU, AARON & CHANTALE HO 170 152
 GUILLETTE, MARCY XX 196 68

Rutland

WOOD LAWN FARMS, INC. 129 HO 26195 1272 832
 MEDALLION JERSEY LLC. 87 JE 17735 926 689
HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000
 MEDALLION JERSEY LLC. JE 111 87
 WOOD LAWN FARMS, INC. HO 126 129

Washington

FAIRMONT FARM 1668 HO 29370 1264 978
 SETH GARDNER 363 HO 20690 825 642
 MOLLY BROOK FARM LLC. 77 JE 15876 759 593
 FRANK, MARILYN & KIRT JOHN 63 HO 19556 678 571
HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000
 MOLLY BROOK FARM LLC. JE 112 77
 FRANK MARILYN & KIRT JOHN HO 121 63
 FAIRMONT FARM HO 131 1668
 SETH GARDNER HO 155 363

Windham

WESTMINSTER FARM 831 HO 29082 1246 953
 MARK, SUE, SAM, KELTSEY R. 36 HO 26082 1083 856
 MILLER, PETER 272 HO 26420 1116 810
 MARK, SUE, SAM, KELTSEY R. 23 JE 17667 968 678
 HAMILTON, JAKE 48 HO 19744 860 636
 LILAC RIDGE FARM 38 HO 16795 702 514
 THE PUTNEY SCHOOL 29 XX 15764 679 505
 MALCOLM SUMNER 39 JE 14224 731 501

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MILLER, PETER HO 127 272
MARK, SUE, SAM, KELTSY RUSHTO HO 132 36
WESTMINSTER FARM HO 142 831
THE CORSE FARM XX 158 55
MARK, SUE, SAM, KELTSY RUSHTO JE 162 23
HAMILTON, JAKE HO 168 48
MALCOLM SUMNER JE 199 39

Windsor

DOLLOFF, MICHAEL & HEIDI HO 28277 1227 919
ROBETH HOLSTEINS LLC HO 24338 1016 801
LEMAR FARM HO 23286 966 761
RICHARDSON FAMILY FARM HO 17250 1009 688
JEFFREY & DAVID TOWNSEND HO 18498 777 584
SPRING BROOK FARM HO 14406 662 513

MASSACHUSETTS

Franklin

CLESSONS DAIRY HO 26450 1091 838
DAR-RIDGE FARM HO 25038 1102 799
GUNN, STEVE HO 23870 995 773
PURINGTON, ROBERT HO 22365 978 749
HUNT FARM HO 22591 769 693

Hampshire

PARSONS, HENRY & EDWARD HO 21206 995 757
PARSONS, HENRY & EDWARD HO 143 78

Middlesex

TULLY FARMS, INC. HO 21052 907 684
TULLY FARMS, INC. HO 192 124

Worcester

CATLIN FARMSTEAD HO 24512 1025 801

RHODE ISLAND

Providence

WRIGHT'S DAIRY FARM HO 29381 1278 986
WRIGHT'S DAIRY FARM HO 155 118

CONNECTICUT

New London

VALLEY VIEW DAIRY HO 24818 1053 809
CLARK WOODMANSEE III HO 24424 1235 799
JAKE AUBIN HO 24846 1038 787

Windham

ELM FARM HO 26433 1033 828
ELM FARM HO 19568 983 702
KURT NIEMINEN HO 21406 875 679
SELBUORT VALLEY FARM HO 15347 721 520

NEW YORK

Allegany

HESS, LESTER E. HO 25589 1030 801
PLOETZ, GARY & PAT HO 25322 991 788
WILLIAM HALL HO 22079 947 697

Broome

WINSOR ACRES HO 27644 1111 852
WINSOR ACRES HO 89 2210

Cayuga

EZRA WEAVER HO 28284 1170 909
HOOPER, ERNEST HO 26143 1025 791
LEROY & CYNTHIA HORST HO 26172 1032 790

Chautauque

FINN STAR FARMS HO 23180 976 734
PHILIP BECKERINK HO 21472 887 697

Chemung

LE-DENN FARM HO 23402 863 728
LE-DENN FARM HO 95 95

Herkimer

SAMUEL S. KING HO 27141 1026 852
JOHN SAUDER HO 26977 1047 843
JONATHAN SHIRK HO 23736 1117 753

Jefferson

ALLARD CREST FARM HO 20078 783 643
BONNYLAND FARM HO 19730 798 615

Montgomery

GIDEON S. KING HO 26309 1108 818
JOHN & CHRIS NELLIS HO 24661 990 783
PETERSHEIM, IVAN & ESTHER HO 23122 899 710

Ontario

LAKE COUNTRY HOLSTEINS HO 30770 1232 991
NEVIN SENSENIG HO 28830 1234 950
NELSON SENSENIG HO 29486 1169 941

DAVID BURKHOLDER HO 72 48
NEVIN SENSENIG HO 75 62
LAKE COUNTRY HOLSTEINS HO 106 77

Otsego

EVAN M. CHARLES HO 24578 991 803
MATHEW FISHER HO 23038 1008 716
MARVIN FISHER HO 23240 879 699

Rensselaer

ERIC ZIEHN 55 XX 16766 836 537

Schoharie

ERIC & TAYLOR BOGARDUS HO 23387 860 739
SLATEHILL FARM HO 22323 927 712
ERIC & TAYLOR BOGARDUS HO 18198 826 632

Schuyler

MARLIN HOOPER HO 24380 959 762
JAMES HOOPER HO 22856 953 749
BROOK'S EDGE DAIRY HO 21812 919 705

Seneca

WINDY HOLLOW FARM HO 25876 1119 829
CLAIR ZIMMERMAN HO 24345 957 736
KEITH MARTIN HO 21730 892 712

Steuben

PAUL & KATHIE WHITE HO 28089 1229 886
PAUL & KATHIE WHITE HO 92 118

Tioga

LAWTON JERSEY FARM HO 21260 1046 755
SHIPMAN, DAVID HO 17502 731 565

Washington

WINDY LEA DAIRY LLC. HO 18557 787 585

Wayne

RICHARD HORNING HO 26513 1121 880
ANTHONY HIGH HO 26845 1153 874

LARRY MARTIN HO 25023 1007 764
ANTHONY HIGH HO 105 136
LARRY MARTIN HO 162 110

Yates

NATHANIEL MARTIN HO 28064 1118 914
MATTHEW ZEISEL HO 29213 1180 903
CLARENCE GARMAN HO 27009 1092 881

DAVID MARTIN HO 51 52
NATHANIEL MARTIN HO 57 43
JOHN BURKHOLDER HO 72 41
MATTHEW ZEISEL HO 76 68

NEW JERSEY

Burlington

HOLLAND VALLEY FARM HO 18500 725 584

Middlesex

SPRING RUN DAIRY LLC. HO 17344 759 610
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MARYLAND DAIRY SHRINE GUESTS OF HONOR

Janet Shank Stiles Fulton's focus was multi-directional

WEST FRIENDSHIP, Md. — Janet Shank Stiles Fulton has dedicated her life to agriculture, especially the dairy industry, through advocacy, education, and leadership. Last Saturday evening, February 22, she was formally recognized as one of four new Guests of Honor at the Maryland Dairy Shrine Banquet.

Growing up on her family's Ayrshire farm near Hagerstown, Janet developed a passion for dairy and 4-H, achieving notable success on judging teams. At the age of 17 she placed second high overall at the National Contest, leading her team to compete in Europe.

After earning her B.S. degree in dairy science from the University of Maryland, she helped launch the Junior Dairymen Contest at the Maryland State Fair, which became a model for contests nationwide. After graduation, she became Maryland's first female

County Agricultural Extension Agent, earning Rookie of the Year recognition for her dedication to local farmers and 4-H programs.

In 1980, Janet married Tracy Stiles, and together they established Shenandoah Jerseys. They served on the National Young Cooperators Committee and co-chaired the 1991 National Jersey Convention in Hagerstown.

Janet also judged numerous shows, including the Australian International Dairy Show, and coached winning 4-H teams.

After many years of looking for a farm of their own, the farm of cousin Nathan Stiles was pur-



Janet S.S. Fulton

chased near Boonsboro in 1996. Forty-five milk cows and heifers became Shenandoah Jerseys.

After Tracy's passing in 2000, Janet continued their dream of owning a modern dairy facility. The barn and milking parlor became reality 2004.

In 2006, Janet's dedication to the dairy industry earned her the Dairy Woman of the Year Award at the World Dairy Expo.

In 2007, she married Adna Fulton and expanded her agricultural advocacy, hosting farm tours, educating students, elected officials, and civic groups, and appearing on

Maryland Farm and Harvest.

She has served on various agricultural and County economic development boards, including MARBIDCO, MDIA, and the Governor's Dairy Advisory Committee.

Janet's life revolves around her family and their shared passion for agriculture. Her daughter Jessica and husband Jr. are now partners in the dairy operation, implementing robotic milkers, a robotic feed pusher, a calf feeder, and a barn scraper.

Sundays are family days, bringing everyone together, including Jessica, Jr., and their children Cole and Luke, as well as son Bobby, his wife Melissa, and Kait and Nick, to enjoy time as a family.

Janet's lifelong commitment to agriculture and consumer education has left an enduring impact on the dairy industry.

Bob Valentine appreciated his family legacy and has passed it on

WEST FRIENDSHIP, Md. — You could say that Robert "Bob" Valentine had dairy in his blood right from birth. He grew up as a third generation Ayrshire breeder, following in the footsteps of his father, grandfather, and uncle. Following the established pattern, Bob passed that love of Ayrshires on to three more generations.

On February 22, the Maryland Dairy Shrine recognized his dedication and accomplishments with the Guest of Honor title. The formality took place at the MDS banquet held at the Howard County Fairgrounds with more than 150 people in attendance.

During his younger years Bob showed his beautiful horned Ayrshire cattle under the Val-Ayr prefix. The cattle are now exhibited under the Vales-Pride prefix. While the name

has changed, the passion and enthusiasm for beautiful red-and-white bovines remains the same.

Bob has always been an active supporter of the Ayrshire breed. He was president of the Maryland / Delaware Ayrshire Association from 1993-2011. He served on several national committees for the breed to help guide it to a brighter future. He traveled to many National Ayrshire Conventions to represent Maryland and supported many Ayrshire sales with purchases.

If there is anything that comes close to



Bob Valentine

Bob's love for Ayrshire cattle, it is his passion for helping youths. In 2024 he was recognized for his 50 years of service as a 4-H dairy superintendent of The Great Frederick Fair as well as for his role as beef, sheep and swine sale chairman for the Thurmont & Emmitsburg Community Show since its inception 50 years ago. "Mr. Bob," as many kids fondly refer to him, has been a staple at these and many other

events, lending a helping hand or offering advice and just making sure everything runs smoothly.

Bob spent the majority of his adult life employed by Sire Power, Inc. For almost 33 years he helped his customers make mating decisions and improve their herds as an AI technician. He received awards from the National Association of Animal Breeders for 30 years of service and 100,000 first services.

Bob would tell you that his greatest accomplishment is his family. He has been married to the love of his life, Madeline, for 62 years. Together they have two sons, Michael and Mark, married respectively to Denise and Jessica; six grandchildren and six great grandchildren. It is through them that the love of Ayrshires, agriculture and giving back will carry on thanks to the example set forth by their patriarch.

Keen eyes, dedication, passion and persistence were Haines' keys

WEST FRIENDSHIP, Md. — Michael and Anita Haines of Locust-Ayr Farm near Taneytown have built a lasting legacy in the dairy industry. For this and more, the Maryland Dairy Shrine recognized them as Guests of Honor at the MDS banquet held at the Howard County Fairgrounds on February 22.

Locust-Ayr Farm, originally established in 1958 by Mike's parents, began as a predominantly Ayrshire herd. In 1968, recognizing the market potential of Holstein genetics, Mike transitioned the herd to Registered Holsteins. His keen eye for cattle, developed through years of working with his friend Gary Derr, led to the creation of Roseboud Holsteins. Together, they bred animals that earned local and state recognition, with many offspring becoming foundation families for both Locust-Ayr and Derrwyn Farm.

Mike and Anita married in 1979 and formed a partnership with his parents in 1986. Their involvement in Genuine Genetics, a bull-proving syndicate, led to the success of

Tri-Day Valiant Gold, a top-ranking sire leased to ABS in 1985. Through careful breeding and strategic merchandising, the couple sold animals and exported embryos worldwide, securing their ability to purchase the farm outright in 1993 and expand further in 2005.

Today, Locust-Ayr Farm spans 500 acres. Mike oversees farm operations while Anita worked full-time as an LPN until her retirement in 2023. Both have dedicated themselves to agricultural leadership. Mike has served on the Carroll County Fair Board for 50 years and the Maryland Holstein Association and Maryland Milk Advisory Board for 16 years. He also played a key role in the Carroll County Calf Sale for over 25 years. Anita has been equally involved, serving as a dairy superintendent, judging youth programs, and fund raising for Holstein associations.

Locust-Ayr Farm has produced numerous high-caliber Holsteins and Jerseys. Their Holstein success includes All-Maryland winners like EX-91 Locust-Ayr Pacer Katrina, sale top-



Mike and Anita Haines

per Locust-Ayr C Mercy P-Red, and EX-93 Locust-Ayr Stardust Lila, a supreme champion at the Carroll County Fair. The farm remains home to EX-94 Locust-Ayr Dorcy Alien, who has produced over 300,000 pounds of milk.

In 1997, Jerseys were introduced into the herd, leading to national and state show winners such as EX-95 Locust-Ayr Tequila Rosie and Locust-Ayr Deluxe Hawaii.

Mike and Anita's dedication to dairy farming has been recognized with the Maryland Holstein Association's Outstanding Young Breeder Award and the Outstanding Senior Breeder Award. Their legacy continues with their sons, Brett and Ryan. Brett, his wife Andrea, and their son Riley remain involved in the industry. Ryan manages the farm and has developed its Jersey herd. Their impact extends beyond their own family, as multiple nieces and nephews have also carried on their farming traditions, ensuring the Locust-Ayr legacy endures for generations to come.

Hickoryvale Farm, from dairy's 'golden age' gets 'Pioneer' recognition

WEST FRIENDSHIP, Md. — Newly and posthumously inducted as Maryland Dairy Shrine Pioneers on February 22 were three men from Hickoryvale Farm, an influential Holstein breeding ground from dairy's "golden age".

Hickoryvale Farm was established by Ira and Zora Ifert in 1912 and grew to become one of Maryland's leading registered Holstein herds. In 1921, the Iferts moved to the Keller Farm, purchasing it the following year.

Their sons, Lee and Charles, began their journey with Registered Holsteins with the purchase of two calves from a neighbor, Elmer Shafer.

As younger sons Merhle, Page and David grew old enough for 4-H, more registered animals were added, eventually transforming Hickoryvale into an all-registered herd. Following Ira's passing in 1969, Merhle and Page took over management, continuing the farm's tradition of excellence.

Hickoryvale's reputation grew locally and nationally. A pivotal moment came in 1943 when Ira sold Dunloggin Progressor who became a Gold Medal Sire, siring 40 daughters that shaped the herd's foundation.

Another key purchase, Dunloggin Rexooie, produced influential sons used in Rolling Knoll, Irvington and Hickoryvale herds. Post-WWII, the farm doubled its barn capacity to ac-



Ira Ifert in back with sons Mehrle and Page.

commodate 100 cows, allowing for further expansion of their breeding program.

Their best show year came in 1952 with three nominations, including a Reserve All-American for Harden Farms in New York. Hickoryvale cattle excelled in both local and national showings.

Merchandising was a key part of Hickoryvale's success. The Iferts were consistent consignors at sales throughout the region. Through their relationship with neighbor J. Homer Remsberg, they exported cattle to 15 states and seven countries, including Puerto Rico, Spain, Italy, Mexico, Hungary, Saudi Arabia and East Germany.

A major milestone came in 1950 with the purchase of Hengeorge Master Admiral for \$10,000 at the OTCO Dispersal. It was the highest auction price for a Holstein that year. He became a Gold Medal Sire. Over time, Hickoryvale bred or developed six Gold Medal Sires, five Silver Medal production sires, and three Silver Medal type sires, with multiple bulls entering AI service at Maryland ABC and Select Sires.

Their commitment to excellence was evident in their 1700+ homebred registrations, 21 Excellent homebred animals, 13 Dams of Merit, and six Gold Medal Dams. They earned the Progressive Breeder Award 17 times and participated in the official classification program early on. Their production achievements included being a homebred state milk leader and being recognized as Maryland's high herd for butterfat.

Through generations of dedication, Hickoryvale Farm established itself as a pillar of the dairy industry, leaving a lasting legacy of exceptional breeding and commitment to agriculture.

\$10 Million in drought relief is available to Ohio farmers

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio — The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) has announced state drought relief funding started on February 15 and will close April 1, 2025. Extreme weather conditions throughout the spring and summer last year significantly impacted Ohio's agricultural producers.

Local Soil and Water Conservation Districts will help administer the relief funding to 28 counties designated as primary natural disaster areas by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) between August 19th and September 16th, 2024, due to drought. Funding is available to any livestock producer participating in the USDA FSA Livestock Forage Disaster Program in a county designated as a primary natural disaster area.

The 28 counties are: Athens, Belmont, Carroll, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Gallia, Guernsey, Harrison, Highland, Hocking, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Licking, Madison, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Pickaway, Pike, Ross, Tuscarawas, Vinton and Washington.

Some farmers are still feeling the impacts of the drought that resulted in depleted hay and water supplies and created mental health stressors for them and their families.

"From mental health challenges to loss of production, lack of water for livestock, and financial concerns, our producers felt extreme pressures. As a 7th-generation farmer, I know the uncertainty that comes with the job," said ODA Director Brian Baldrige. "Ohio's agricultural communities are resilient, and I am thankful for Governor DeWine and the Ohio legislature for their unwavering support of our producers. This funding assistance will help provide additional relief to our hard-working farming communities."

Livestock producers located in the 28 impacted counties are encouraged to contact their local Soil and Water Conservation Districts to discuss eligibility and to apply for funding. For more resources and information please visit ODA's drought resource webpage.

New animal health lab coming to western Pa.

HARRISBURG, Pa. — The Pennsylvania Animal Diagnostic Laboratory System (PADLS) will expand this year by adding a new location at Penn State University's Beaver Campus in Monaca. Funded by a \$6 million investment secured by Governor Josh Shapiro in the bipartisan 2024-25 budget, the expansion will increase Pennsylvania's capacity to respond to animal disease outbreaks, speeding diagnoses for farmers in the western part of the state, lowering their business costs, and helping protect their animals and investments.

Governor Shapiro proposed an additional \$2 million investment in his 2025-26 budget to support the new lab's operations. The new lab will join the system's three cutting-edge labs: the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Pennsylvania Veterinary Laboratory in

Harrisburg, Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences' Animal Diagnostic Laboratory in University Park, and the New Bolton Center at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine in Kennett Square.

"As a dairy farmer from Berlin, Somerset County, and dairy representative on the Pennsylvania Animal Health and Diagnostic Commission since 2022, I've seen first-hand the vital role PADLS plays in supporting our livestock industry," said Glenn Stoltzfus of Pennwood Farm. "This investment will not only strengthen animal health but also drive economic growth in the region. It aligns with the Governor's economic development strategy by boosting agriculture, particularly the livestock sector, and improving Pennsylvania's competitiveness in expanding its agricultural operations."



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H. Sellers
Dairy Jeopardy



A. Hoffman
Dairy Jeopardy



K. Couch
Dairy Jeopardy



A. Gehringer
folding display



M. Hoffman
Dairy Jeopardy



M. Bicksler
Dairy Jeopardy



M. Mase
art contest,
ad design



E. Hoffman
Dairy Jeopardy



Andrea Hix
Dairy Jeopardy,
folding display



J. Hoover
Dairy Jeopardy,
folding display



B. Deeter
Man on the
Street



S. Hershberger
Man on the
Street



L. Clark
speech contest



Seth Peiffer
speech contest



Kylee Clark
speech contest



S. Griswold
essay contest



C. Shippey
essay contest



Hailey Zook
essay contest,
folding display



H. Zook
essay contest



B. Keller
speech contest



E. Copenhaver
speech contest



J. Risser
speech contest



T. Koch
art contest



W. Gearhart
art contest

PJHA members competed at state convention; winners named

GETTYSBURG, Pa. — Pennsylvania Holstein Juniors participated in 11 contests at the Pennsylvania Holstein Association's convention held February 6-8 in Gettysburg. Each of these contests was designed to hone and test their knowledge and skills, ranging from art and advertising design to public speaking and Dairy Jeopardy.

Dairy Jeopardy Contest

The contest, modeled after the popular TV game show, featured dairy industry and Holstein related category topics. The contest had 40 contestants in three age divisions. The top placing individuals were as follows:

Junior division

1. Ethan Hoffman, Lancaster County
2. Andrea Hix, Berks County
3. Jason Hoover, Cambria County

Intermediate division

1. Hudson Sellers, Lebanon County
2. Madison Mowrer, Huntingdon County
3. Alexa Hoffman, Lancaster County

Senior division

1. Madelynn Hoffman, Lancaster County
2. Atosha Lewis, Susquehanna County
3. Maya Bicksler, Berks County

The Pennsylvania Junior Holstein Association wishes to recognize Purina Animal Nutrition, represented by Duane Nolt, for

sponsoring the contest again this year. Also, special thanks to the Penn State Dairy Science Club for managing the entire Jeopardy contest.

Art Contest

There are two age divisions and three categories of art work: Sketch, Painting and 3-D designs or Sculptures; all art must be farm and agricultural related.

Junior division winners

Sketch: McKinleigh Mase, Crawford Co.
Painting: Lily Guillaume, Bucks County
Sculpture/3-D: Maverick Mase, Crawford

Senior division winners:

Sketch: Wesson Trypus, Crawford County
Painting: Tabitha Koch, Juniata County
Sculpture/3-D: Wyatt Gearhart, Blair Co.

Creative folding display contest

Top displays, junior division:

1. Nolan Troutman, Lebanon County
2. Ashtyn Gehringer, Berks County
3. Hailey Zook, Mifflin County

Top displays, intermediate division:

1. Elyse Mead, Adams County
2. Brinkley Burdette, Franklin County
3. Charlotte Quick, Susquehanna County

Top display, senior division:

1. Casey Zirk, Adams County

Scientific Folding Display Contest

Top displays, junior division:

1. Andrea Hix, Berks County
2. Jason Hoover, Cambria County
3. Colton Uber, Crawford County

Top displays, intermediate division:

1. Abby Brown, Adams County
2. Addison Nolen, Lebanon County
3. Wesson Trypus, Crawford County

Top displays, senior division:

1. Faith Wolfe, Centre County
2. Sophie Griswold, Chester County
3. Lauryn Irwin, Crawford County

Essay contest

Contestants were asked to choose any subject pertaining to Holstein cattle and the dairy industry.

Top three, junior division:

1. Caroline Shippey, Centre County
2. Hailey Zook, Mifflin County
3. Harper Zook, Mifflin County

Top three, intermediate division:

1. Logan Irwin, Crawford County
2. Trevor Raney, Crawford County
3. Owen Brofee, Perry County

Top two, senior division:

1. Evelyn Troutman, Lebanon County
2. Sophie Griswold, Chester County

Advertising design contest

There are two age divisions and the winner in each division will have their advertisement placed in the Pennsylvania Holstein Profiles magazine.

Junior division winner:

McKinleigh Mase, Crawford County

Senior division winner:

Wesson Trypus, Crawford County

Public Speaking Contest

Top three in the junior division:

1. Leanne Clark, Huntingdon County
2. Seth Peiffer, Lebanon Co.
3. Kylee Clark, Huntingdon County

Top three in the intermediate division:

1. Bryanne Keller, Adams County
2. Emma Copenhaver, Lebanon County
3. Jesslyn Risser, Lebanon County

Top three in the senior division:

1. Elyse Dilling, Blair County
2. Melissa Griswold, Chester County
3. Evelyn Troutman, Lebanon County

Extemporaneous speaking contest

Top three in the junior division:

1. Leanne Clark, Huntingdon County
2. Kylee Clark, Huntingdon County

turn to page 13

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Logan Irwin
essay contest



T. Raney
essay contest



O. Brofee
essay contest



N. Troutman
folding display

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W. Trypus
art contest,
ad design



M. Griswold
public speaking



Elyse Dilling
public speaking



Elise Mead
folding display

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PJHA from page 12



Colton Uber
folding display

3. Boe Wetherell, Crawford County
Top three in the intermediate division:
 1. Lila Kretzing, Perry County
 2. Madison Mowrer, Huntingdon County
 3. Hudson Sellers, Lebanon County

- Top three in the senior division:**
 1. Autumn Martin, Lebanon County
 2. Sara Stoltzfus, Somerset County
 3. Ainsley Sellers, Lebanon County

On the Street Interview Contest
 Winners by age division:

- Junior:** Brandon Deeter, Crawford County
Intermediate: Savanna Hershberger, Blair
Senior: Ellie Widerman, Adams County

Photo Contest
 The following were selected as winners in

- the categories as noted:
"People" category:
 Cameron Harrington, Crawford County
"Animal" category:
 Mikaylia Maulfair, Lebanon County
"Landscape/Scenery" category:
 Makenna Mase, Crawford County



B. Burdette
folding display



L. Guillaume
art contest



M. Mase
art contest



A. Nolan
folding display



Abby Brown
folding display



Sara Stoltzfus
extemporaneous



A. Martin
extemporaneous



Ainsley Sellers
extemporaneous



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A Conversation Around Creating your Ideal Cow

Pennsylvania
Wednesday, March 12
 Hoffman Bldg., Solanco
 Fair Grounds, Quarryville
 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 To RSVP, call or text Rusty at
 484-678-3739 by March 5.

Pennsylvania
Thursday, March 13
 Schaefferstown Fire Hall
 Lebanon Co., Pa.
 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 Lunch served for those that
 reserve by texting Nelson Martin
 at 717-821-0655 by March 6.

Wisconsin
Tuesday, March 18
 CAM Building
 W8872 Pine Rd., Thorpe
 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 RSVP to Jason Nolt at
 715-669-3770 by March 11.

Wisconsin
Wednesday, March 19
 Pizza Ranch
 900 W. Main St., Waupun
 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 RSVP by March 12 to
 Paul Giese at 920-904-4961.

Indiana
Thursday, March 20
 The Blue Teal
 600 Maple Ln., Wakarusa
 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 Semen giveaways after lunch.
 RSVP by March 8.
 Text or call 574-538-8206.

New York
Tuesday, March 25
 Vince's Park, Seneca Falls
 1602 Vince's Park Drive
 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 Lunch served. RSVP by texting
 or calling Nelson Martin at
 717-821-0655 by March 18.

New York
Wednesday, March 26
 Skyline Auction Center
 2781 Route 364, Penn Yan
 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 Lunch served. RSVP by texting
 or calling Nelson Martin at
 717-821-0655 by March 19.

- Schedule**
- *Speaker: Ben Masemore, NoBull Sires LLC sire analyst. "A conversation around creating your IDEAL cow."*
 - *aAa mating presentation*
 - *Speaker: Ben Masemore. "Let's talk some BULL!"*
 - *Lunch*
 - *Questions are welcome. Followed by door prizes!*

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US AT NOBULLSIRESGMAIL.COM

Milk futures continue trek downward

Class III and IV milk futures continued their trek downward this week. The \$20's expire with the Feb. contract on the mid-week close, and June even slipped a penny below \$18. On Wed., Feb. 26 the 12-month averages on both classes fell by 20 cents per cwt, with Class III milk futures contracts averaging \$18.58 and Class IV \$19.24.

Doud to KY dairy farmers: 'Let's go!'

At the Kentucky Dairy Conference in Bowling Green Wed., Feb. 26, NMPF CEO Greg Doud gave a bullish report on this year shaping up for good prices coming off a banner year for demand. He shared that every product category had higher sales. He did note that China's economy is in bad shape, so New Zealand's dairy sales to that market have softened, pushing their product into competition with the U.S. in other markets, including Mexico. Doud said 18% of milk today is exported. "That's where your new money is," he said, even as the daily dairy commodity prices took a nosedive this week to be more globally cost-competitive amid a trade environment that keeps changing — not because of tariff talk as much as other factors.

Doud showed a map of \$8 billion in new processing capacity being commissioned 2023-26. "World demand for protein is increasing, and the supply cannot meet the demand, especially looking out 10 years. Where can the industry grow? Why are these international (processing) investments coming to the U.S.? The only place in the world to grow more dairy is right here," said Doud. "Beef and poultry are not seeing this level of investment. You should be humbled by the money being spent in dairy because they understand this is where to grow the industry. The charge I have for all of you is: Let's go! Let's get off our backsides and make this happen."

He talked about the Kentucky and Tennessee crescent being ideal for sustainable milk production. He also mentioned that beef-on-dairy has been a game changer, so whether breeding cows for dairy replacements or beef, "you can't overshoot, at least for the next couple years."

Cull cow prices rallied this week, as have dairy replacements.

All dairy products lower on spot market

All dairy products plunged lower on the CME daily spot market. The real kicker was the Cold Storage Report showing butter buildup with stocks up 9.2% vs. year ago at the end of January, and the national average FMMO butterfat test rose to 4.43. More components make more products out of the flat milk output. However, cheese inventory is still trailing year ago, but the margin of difference narrowed to 5.7% last month. On Wed., Feb. 26, the spot butter price was pegged at



\$2.350/lb, down a whole dime from the prior Wednesday with 39 loads trading over five days. Nonfat dry milk dropped 6 cents/lb at \$1.2075/lb with 20 loads trading.

The spot cheese market softened further, with 40-lb block cheddar losing 3 cents/lb, pegged at \$1.87/lb with 7 loads trading. The 500-lb barrel cheese price dropped a penny, pegged at \$1.7950/lb with 10 loads trading. Dry whey also lost a penny in scant trade at 53 1/2 cents/lb.

Jan. milk output up less than 0.1% 2024 total down 0.5% adj. for extra Leap Day

The January milk production report came out Fri., Feb. 21 showing actually less than a 0.1% or statistically insignificant increase in milk production for the whole U.S. That information is buried in a chart on the 4th page. The headline, however, is the 24-State production was up 0.2% in January vs. year ago. This, even though No. 1 California's production still trails year ago by 5.7% despite adding 1000 cows, as the state is reported to be slowly coming out of its battle with H5N1. As well, No. 2 Wisconsin's output was down 0.6% in January. But No. 3 Texas and No. 4 Idaho are up 6.5 and 6.4%, respectively, along with increased production in other designated "growth" states.

In the East, Pennsylvania and New York beat year ago by 0.8% and 2%, respectively, without adding cows. Vermont was unchanged, Georgia up 3.6%, Florida down 1.1%, and Virginia down 3.3%.

The report also had the yearend tallies for 2024, with total U.S. production down 0.2%. However, when adjusting for the extra Leap Year day of supply and demand in 2024, U.S. herds brought 0.5% less milk to dairy plants as a daily average than in 2023. Milk output per cow, when adjusted for Leap Year, was off by a tenth of a pound per day, and the average number of cows milked was 42,000 fewer than in 2023.

The number of licensed dairy herds in the U.S. averaged 24,811 in 2024, down 1,434 (5.5%) from 2023 — cut by about half over the past decade from the 45,344 dairies in 2014.

Look for more analysis of the yearend production and the significant trends next week.

March Class I mover slips to \$21.02

The March advance Class I base price mover was announced at \$21.02 on Feb. 20, down 25 cents per cwt from the February mover, and up \$2.22 from a year ago. This is 62 cents higher than it would have been if the 'higher of' method was used

to calculate Class I skim price. As we get closer to the USDA implementation date of June 1 to restore the 'higher of' method, along with other Federal Milk Marketing Order price formula changes, we are seeing the Class III and IV advance skim pricing factors come closer and closer together after nearly six years of a wide spread between them. As the pricing advantage swings back the other way, we shall undoubtedly see some impact down the road on that new ESL adjuster.

Total fluid milk sales end 2024 0.6% higher, whole milk up 2% YOY at nearly 40% of sales

After slipping 1.5% below year ago in November, total packaged fluid milk sales in December recovered to beat year ago by 2.6%, thanks in large part to the 2.9% year-over-year (YOY) increase in whole milk sales during the holiday month, along with total organic fluid milk sales gaining 10% YOY, including organic whole milk up 17.1%, according to the recent USDA Estimated Fluid Milk Product Sales Report.

For the 2024 calendar year, total fluid milk sales were 42.98 billion pounds, up 0.8% from 2023, the first year to chart a gain in fluid milk sales after decades of annual declines. When adjusted for the extra Leap Day, total fluid milk sales for 2024 still tracked 0.6% higher than 2023.

Total organic fluid milk sales in 2024 jumped 7.2% vs. 2023, totaling 3.04 billion pounds, representing 7.1% of all fluid milk sales. Total conventional fluid milk sales in 2024, at 39.9 billion pounds, beat 2023 by 0.4%.

Whole milk was the shining star. Conventional whole milk sales (unflavored) gained market share, representing 38.9% of all conventional sales and 35.5% of total combined conventional and organic sales in 2024.

The 2% annual gain in whole milk sales as the largest volume sector in the fluid milk category is a big reason why total sales reversed course this year. Also helping bolster the total sales was organic whole milk, up 13.1% in 2024 vs. 2023, representing 52.6% of all organic fluid milk sales last year.

Flavored whole milk sales, at 752 million pounds in 2024, were up 0.1% YOY. While a larger volume because of federal school rules, the fat-reduced flavored milk sales, at 3.18 billion pounds, were down 0.3% YOY.

'Other fluid milk products' at 2.28 billion pounds for conventional and 7 million pounds for organic, accounted for a combined 5.3% of all fluid milk sales, up 38% and 46.6%, respectively in 2024 vs. 2023. The "other" category includes egg-nog, certain kinds of drinkable yogurt, Lactaid milk, and other products that may not fit into one of the main published categories. A2 and ESL milks are not counted in the 'other products,' but instead are included in the category that matches their fat content.



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The deadline for the USDA grant application is April 17, 2025.



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Maryland students awarded scholarships at Dairy Shrine banquet

WEST FRIENDSHIP, Md. — The Maryland Dairy Shrine held its annual meeting and awards banquet on Saturday, February 22. Over 150 dairy enthusiasts and supporters gathered at the Howard County Fairgrounds to celebrate the achievements of numerous men and women and young adults, including three scholarship winners.

The evening's program began with the presentation of certificates to state-winning youth dairy teams from the previous year. Called forward for recognition were the Maryland 4-H Dairy Judging A & B teams, the Maryland FFA Dairy Judging team, and the Maryland Dairy Princess Promotion team.

Receiving scholarships were:



• **Andie Welsh**, the daughter of Matt and Kelli Welsh of Savage-Leigh Holsteins, Knoxville, was the recipient of a \$1000 Maryland Dairy Shrine scholarship. She is a senior at Brunswick High School where she is active in

FFA, various sports and is also a member of the National Honor Society.

A 9-year member of the Middletown Valley 4-H Dairy Club, Andie has been active showing cows at local, state and national levels and has also competed in dairy bowl. She is very active on the home farm and is in charge of the dairy chores in the show barn. Additionally, she will feed calves and help with the milking as needed.

Andie says this scholarship will help with her plans to attend a 2 or 4-year college to study animal science. She hopes to gain more knowledge in this field and eventually find a job within the agricultural industry.



• **Paige Miller**, the daughter of Brad and Sarah Miller of Kennedyville, also received a \$1000 Maryland Dairy Shrine scholarship. A senior at Kent County High School, she has been very active in sports serving as the captain of both the varsity softball and soccer teams.

She is a member of the National Honor Society, National Art Honor Society and also FFA. In FFA she has held the officer positions of secretary and vice president. She has been in two different 4-H clubs over the years, holding several officer positions and has been showing Brown Swiss cattle since she was 10 and

loves the breed. She has exhibited the grand champion Brown Swiss at the Maryland State Fair 4-H Show for the past three years and in 2024 she also won her class in showmanship.

Her family sold the milking herd in 2011 and became mainly a grain operation while also maintaining a herd of beef cows and dairy heifers. Paige plays a major role in taking care of the animals and she also helps fix equipment and helps with the wheat harvest, often running the grain cart.

Paige is very thankful to grow up in the agricultural industry and enjoys being an advocate for agriculture. One way she does this is through the FFA program. Every spring the school hosts an Ag Day where they teach el-

ementary school children about agriculture. Paige plans to attend a 4-year college majoring in ag business. Her goal is to become a seed salesperson while continuing to be involved with the family farm.



• **Shea Cencula**, daughter of Joe and Hope Cencula of Mt. Airy, is the winner of the \$500 Mid-Maryland Dairy Vets Scholarship. Shea is a junior at Purdue University, as part of a distance learning program, majoring in veterinary

nursing and works as a veterinary assistant to fulfill clinical requirements for her degree.

A graduate of Linganore High School, Shea began her participation in 4-H with a dairy goat project and then decided to add dairy cattle. She has leased cows and heifers of multiple breeds for the past five years. After adding the dairy cattle projects, she became even more involved serving as the Frederick County Dairy Princess and the Maryland Jersey Queen. Just last year, Shea decided to give dairy judging a try for the very first time and she had great success, placing 8th in the Maryland State contest and then going on to compete as an individual in the North American International Livestock Expo in Louisville, placing 6th in Jerseys and 10th in Holsteins.

Additionally, Shea was a member of the National Honor Society and the Linganore FFA chapter. In FFA she served as chapter president and received the American FFA Degree, the highest honor for an FFA member.

Farm succession workshop slated

BUTLER, Pa. — PA Farm Link will host a farm succession workshop on March 18 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 625 Evan City Road, Butler. The workshop will provide information on various aspects of creating a Farm Succession/Transition plan and help work

through some of the myths and stumbling blocks of moving forward with a plan.

Topics include:

- Legal considerations
- Getting your financial house in order
- Farm family communications and long term care and the farm

Farm succession resource workbooks, Long Term Care and the Farm booklet, and lunch will be provided for all registrants.

Space is limited. Registration is required by March 11 and may be completed online at <https://pafarmlink.org/events/> or by calling (724) 541-0387. A \$10 registration fee will be required to hold your space and will be refunded at the workshop.

Bucks County Holstein Assn. slates potluck dinner, March 15

PERKASIE, Pa. — The Bucks County Holstein Club will offer a potluck dinner on Saturday, March 15, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Deep Run Mennonite Church East, 350 Kellers Church Road, Perkasie. The event will start with appetizers at 6:30 p.m.

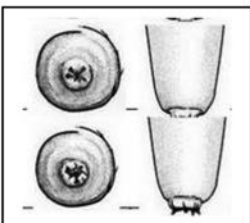
While everyone is asked to bring a dish to share, beverages (including a milk punch), the main course and desserts will be provided.

All are welcome! Any questions, call Sharon Bishop at 215-651-6196 or email her: ensenada4@verizon.net

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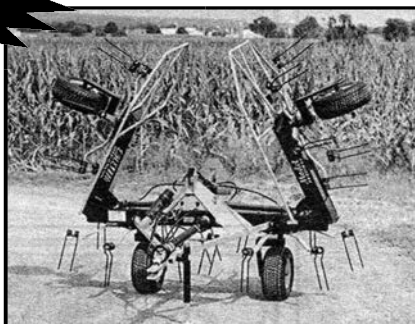
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PHA Convention Sale tallied

GETTYSBURG, Pa. — The Pennsylvania Holstein Association hosted their Convention Sale here on February 8 at the Wyndham Gettysburg Hotel. A list of top sellers, buyers and prices, as well as a sale summary, appears below.

1. Lot 1- First Choice Master Due 9-1-25	\$9,400
Choice from Peace&Plenty Sdkick Jubtoit EX-92 Buyer: Richard Goodwin Bangor, ME Seller: Hlavaty & Storey Lititz, PA	
2. Lot 2- Millwork Dropbox Kiss-ET	\$9,400
VG-87 @ 1-11 Winter Sr 2 Dropbox from Byway Kaden 2E-95 Buyer: Oak-Rail, Shade-MTN, and Jor-Ju Holsteins McAlisterville, PA Seller: Millwork Holsteins Thompsontown, PA	
3. Lot 57- Curly-Hill Prnia Annika-ET	\$8,600
Jr 2 Perennial x Crystal-Star Admrl Angel VG-88 Due 3-1 Buyer: Tom DeGroot Chilliwack, BC Seller: Stonehurst Farms Strasburg, PA	
4. Lot 34- First Choice Major or Alpha Due 6-4-25	\$5,100
Choice from McWilliams Damion Grace 3E-94, All-PA 2024 Buyer: Chad Horst Newmantown, PA Seller: McWilliams Farm Somerset, PA	
5. Lot 5- Pick 1 cow from 10 at C-Cove Holsteins	\$4,900
Group included 7 VG 2-yr-olds other 3 just fresh Buyer: Jeff & Nicole Ansell Renfrew, PA Seller: C-Cove Holsteins Clearville, PA	
6. Lot 15- Pick 1 cow from 8 at Dream-On Holsteins	\$4,900
4 each 1 st and 2 nd lactation cows in the group, 4 VG Buyer: Derek Good Myerstown, PA Seller: Gary & Barbara Lentz Lebanon, PA	

Sale Statistics

10 more lots over \$4,000, and 29 lots over \$3,000
73 full lots grossed \$256,420 for an average of \$3,513
53 Live & Choice lots grossed \$207,900 for an average of \$3,922
20 Embryo lots grossed \$48,520 for an average of \$495/embryo
Group of 5 cows sold in one lot from Brook-Corner to Jeff Ansell for \$18,750

Sale Staff

Auctioneer: Chris A. Hill Sale Chair & Pedigrees: Josh Sanders
Sale Staff: David J. Lentz, Nick Raggi, Madison Fisher, Jordan Horst, Colin Lentz, Matt Zimmerman, George Sebright, Jeff Benedict, and Kyle Welk.

'Snowbirds' met in sunny Florida and heard a young lady explain the importance of legacy

BRANDON, Fla. — The latest version of the Dairy Snowbird Old Timer's Luncheon was held here in Brandon at O'Brien's Irish Pub on Monday, February 17. As is always the case, the luncheon provided a chance to catch up with old friends and to make new ones.

The luncheon was held near the Florida State Fairgrounds on the day of the dairy cow show, but the show was abbreviated because of the avian flu. Nevertheless, the luncheon was not. We had an hour of pre-lunch socializing about "old times," a nice lunch, plus a presentation. Some even held out later for more conversation.

Madison (Maddy) Dyment, a young lady from Ontario, was the guest speaker. She recently earned her Ph.D. at the University of Florida in agricultural education and communication. She started her college career at the University of Kentucky for her bachelor's degree and then went on to Ohio State for her master's degree.

Along the way she represented UK (who only had a team because of Maddy!) at the 2019 WDE Intercollegiate Dairy Judging Contest and won top honors in both placings and reasons. Winning both is a somewhat rare accomplishment. This fall she will join the faculty at New Mexico State University in Las Cruces as an assistant professor.

Maddy explained how "legacy" was important not only to her own interest and dedication the dairy industry but also how important it is to inspire youths to enter our field. She grew up on her families' dairy farms in Canada and her father was her main judging coach. Her uncle was a recent as-



The luncheon attendees represented seven states: Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin, Maine, New York and Florida, plus the Province of Ontario.

sociate judge at WDE.

There was a lot of dairy influence for Maddy growing up and now she has the opportunity to be an influencer to dairy kids in the Southwest. I have a feeling NMSU will soon have a dairy judging team competing at the World Dairy Expo! (And it will be because of Maddy!)

Her special message to us "old timers" (most of us are over 40!) was to not forgo our opportunity to influence the young folks we encounter. The dairy industry is shrinking, and it needs talented young folks who can become part of the industry which has rewarded all of us old timers richly through all these years.

Maddy obviously learned her craft well at home in Canada, the University of Kentucky, Ohio State and the University of Florida.

The luncheon attendees represented seven states: Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin, Maine, New York and Florida, plus the Province of Ontario.

Next year's event details have not been established yet, although it will likely be in the same location.

— Submitted by Larry Hawkins

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Tough truths from page 1

20% have a plan.

To the young people, Hanson gives this advice: "Don't bank on getting the farm. These things won't take care of themselves, and if you are the person on your farm who came home, worked, stayed, and gave sweat equity to the business, you may not be able to continue it, if it must be sold to settle the estate because no transition plan was done."

He tells young farmers that if they're working on their family farm, where grandparents and parents have done nothing, "go to those parents and say I've come home. I am here to help. I made the commitment and sacrifice to be here, but if we don't put a plan in place, we are putting my future at risk. Why would we do that? If something unexpected happens to you, what happens to me?"

To the older generation, he gives this challenge: "Why would you work your entire life to build something and never put a plan in place to protect it?"

Often the adult children in a family farm never learn their parents' actual final wishes and direction until after they are deceased.

"What does that accomplish? If parents and grandparents don't share their intentions and final plans, hopes and dreams, who will do it later? Some attorney who has never been on the farm or never met the family?"

This is an area of major procrastination in the lives of busy farmers who tend to keep things private and fear the confrontation they want to avoid.

"Transition planning is emotional. It means thinking about death and the loss of control," Hanson explains. "You are not stepping away, you are stepping back. You are finding ways to build the next generation's equity, net worth, and experience so that they are prepared to take over the operation."

He gave several examples of real-world sit-

uations. In one case, a Montana rancher came to him. He and his wife could not afford to pay their daughter with an animal science degree the kind of salary of the job offers she had in the industry.

The solution they came up with was to give the daughter 15 calves each branding season to go with her small salary and the double-wide modular home on the property. Today, at age 47, she has her own 600-cow herd, rents grass on neighboring land and has built her own net worth.

"But she also still works for mom and dad," he points out.

"When the older generation hangs onto too much control for too long, it gets even more difficult (to transition), and the younger generation never has the opportunity to learn and fail in order to gain the management experience they need to be successful."

This concept of providing an opportunity for the next generation to build their own assets, equity and net worth is crucial. Hanson gives other examples, like trading labor for machinery or a parcel of land to farm on their own.

"We've got to put them in a position for success, to build their own assets and net worth, so they can step in and take over and be successful," he urges.

By stepping back, not away from the operation, the older generation can provide wisdom and advice, while the younger generation has enthusiasm, energy, a new perspective, and fresh ideas.

"Think what can be accomplished as a family by blending the talents together," Hanson relates. "When you make a succession plan before your death, you are in control (not losing control). It is when you are not making a plan that you give up control."

Once a transition planning process begins, there are assumptions and roadblocks that can derail it from being completed. Hanson sees parents often assuming children will get

along and not argue when they are gone. They assume that the fairest way to treat adult children is to divide assets equally, and that their children will carry out their final wishes and figure out what to do.

"Be awfully careful about those assumptions of what will happen later, when instead you can have a succession plan for what can happen now – your plan, your wishes, hopes and dreams," he says, citing data showing less than 30% of family farming operations will survive past two generations without a plan, and very few survive a sudden unexpected change without a plan for farm ownership succession.

"What happens if something suddenly unexpectedly happened today to your farming operation or within your family? Does everyone in your entire family already know as well as understand what happens tomorrow? Who would take over, how and when?" he asks.

"If I am 'the farming child,' and I have to buy out other children in the family to keep the farm together as a unit, who determines the price and terms, how and when it happens? These are critical questions."

The four major consequences he sees in failing to implement a successful farm transition plan are:

- 1. The family farm is dissolved and the farm itself ends up being divided.
- 2. The farm is sold outside the family circle, forever ending the legacy.
- 3. Adult siblings take on a long and expensive legal fight.
- 4. Bitterness and resentments result in family members no longer speaking to each other.

The transition process is about solutions, and working with an adviser or team of advisers helps keep the process on track.

To be successful, says Hanson, "Create a sense of urgency, embrace the process as a priority, set deadlines, and have a timetable to keep it moving forward. Keep the family

conversations directed at the planning – with the objectives of being productive, meaningful, constructive and healthy conversations. Make sure all family voices are involved so different points of view are heard, valued and respected."

This means fostering a non-threatening family meeting environment where members are encouraged to share their feelings and expectations. Here's where a trusted adviser, or moderator, can be quite helpful.

Farmers think about transition planning as something full of legal terms and costs paid to lawyers and accountants, but it is much more than that and at the same time much simpler at the core of it.

"If it's not considered an important priority, it never gets done, and has no chance of being executed or carried out," Hanson states, sharing this simple strategy:

- 1. Get started.
- 2. Follow through; make it a priority.
- 3) Don't allow personal fears to paralyze the process.
- 4) Strive to be a mentor and teacher, more than a boss or supervisor.
- 5) Provide an opportunity for the next generation to build their own assets.

"Succession planning can be overwhelming, so break it down," Hanson suggests.

The bottomline, is this: "The young and beginning farmers need the certainty that they are building a future. At the same time, the older generation needs peace of mind and assurance that the legacy they've built will continue. Create this win-win in your plan, and don't be afraid to share and ask for help. It doesn't mean you are weak," Hanson declares.

"It takes courage and commitment to sit down and find the elephant in the room and talk about it – to ask the tough questions and address the tough issues.

"It is about how the farm continues, and the family."

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Roof failures from page 3

and Jr. are contending with a roof collapse at their Pedersen Family Farm near Lee Center. They lost a heifer barn and up to 60 cows in a barn collapse from the weight of the snow. Friends have started a GoFundMe at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/rebuild-pedersen-family-farm-after-tragedy>

Also in Oneida County, the Sokoloff family's dairy barn near Booneville collapsed, tragically taking two-thirds of their beloved herd. Two additional buildings and vital equipment were also severely damaged under the immense snow load. A GoFundMe effort was started for them at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-the-sokoloffs-after-devastating-loss>

Related to the storm conditions, on Feb. 16 in Madison County, Gene Wratten's milkhouse and dairy barn near Madison was engulfed in fire, and 125 head of cattle perished. This second-generation farm family has given back to the community in jobs and help for the local FFA chapter or any neighbor. A GoFundMe was started for this tragedy as well at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-for-the-wratten-family-farm-after-tragic-fire>

To the north and west, roof collapses, and the aftermath have occurred at Locust Hill Dairy in Jefferson County, where animals were lost.

In Herkimer County, the Ricci Farm near Frankfort had their heifer and dry cow barn collapse, and the community helped move cattle.

Similar reports are also coming in from New Hampshire.

While the rural and town communities rally around these farm families in immediate need to find, care for, and move cattle, as well as clean up before other decisions



The Western Volunteer Fire Company in Oneida County helped rescue animals from the 100' x 300' barn after the roof collapsed at Sokoloff Farms, Booneville, claiming up to two-thirds of their herd. Photo provided

can be made, an uninformed public includes those making detrimental social media remarks from the comfort of their living rooms.

However, the truth is, this winter has been called an "old timer winter," but it is also being described as quite unique in several respects – especially for central New York, where everything from fire stations, churches, businesses, warehouses and a few homes to the dairy barns, horse barns, hay sheds, greenhouses and other agricultural buildings have either collapsed or at risk for collapse.

Brian Manwarring, who clears snow off roofs, was reported by WKTV, summing up the season: "It's been an insane snowfall this year. We've been going around the clock. I've worked over 70 hours a week since after Christmas."

He warned more issues could arise as tem-

peratures rise and rain adds weight: "It'll get heavier," he said, explaining the roof "snow-packs" have already had freezing rain coatings. They do not slide off and are hard to remove.

Ag engineers, like Dan McFarland with Penn State Extension, have explained the way the snow pack will absorb periods of rain, and when that turns to ice, it doesn't move and takes longer to melt. Some ag building roofs are quite wide, which also makes snow load removal more difficult.

"If you are going to remove it, remove it evenly," McFarland advises. "One thing to avoid is uneven snow loads. Trusses are designed to carry the load to the load bearing points on the sides, so don't prop them up in the middle because that can actually weaken the design."

He notes that agricultural roof systems are engineered systems, designed for the buildup of snow cover as measured by ground cover maps. A light snow is 5 to 20 pounds per

square foot. A snowpack is 30 to 40 pounds.

A snowpack with ice can be 40 to 50 pounds per square inch.

Good ventilation also helps. Condensation can deteriorate roof systems.

In central New York, the six-day storm dumped feet of wind-driven snow unevenly, to begin with.

"Drifting of roof snowpack, warming temperatures, additional rainfall getting absorbed, and blocked roof drainage systems all contribute to uneven or excessive snow loads," writes Curt Gooch with Cornell Extension. "Strained roofs surviving the weight from this week bear watching in additional storms later this season."

Wood structures will show stress before they fail unlike metal structures that usually will not, he explains. For a wood structure, the following audible and or visual signs may be noticed prior to failure:

- 1) Creaking or moaning in the building;
- 2) Bowing of truss bottom chords or web members;
- 3) Bowing of rafters or purlins; and
- 4) Bowing of headers or columns.

According to Gooch, roof failure can be the result of several factors, which include whether snow load exceeds the design, and the imbalance of the load on the roof.

"Failure of any one key member can cause others to fail as a result of load transfer, producing a domino effect," he explains. "Pre-engineered post frame agricultural buildings are designed to withstand a certain level of wind and snow loading as a 'design value.'"

For a pre-engineered building, he advises checking the actual snow load against the design snow load. If the actual load is less than the design load, then failure is not imminent.

Experts suggest evaluating truss systems for bowing and contacting professionals to evaluate or assist.

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GARDNER CUSTOM HEIFER raising. 40 years experience. TMR in fenceline feeders with lockups, dairy veterinarian manages, adolescent to springers, competitive prices. 540-871-0246, dlggar@aol.com, gardnerheifers.com.

CUSTOM HEIFER RAISING. 300-400 head capacity. AI breeding, hauling available. We do not have state of the art facilities but are committed to an accelerated feeding program. Call for pricing. Reach us at 240-291-0286.

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CUSTOM HEIFER RAISING. Good quality forages. Minerals and hay in TMR. Room for 150-200 head. Troy area. 570-220-4542.

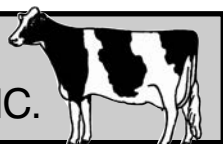
HEIFER BOARDING - Sand bedded freestalls. Corn silage haylage and hay included. \$2/hd/day. 607-382-3633.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5TH • 10:30 A.M.

Recently fresh cows milking 100+ lbs. w/low SCC are in demand!

All sizes of quality Holstein heifers, both open and bred, are selling at historical highs!

Consignors: Please send all info with truckers for the catalog.
For more information, contact dairy reps:
 Aaron Martin, 717-445-4825 (home); Bill Hough, 973-224-0204 (cell).


Thank you - N.H.S.S.

REMINDER:
 Friday, March 7th - Special Driving & Draft Horse Sale.
 Start time 12 noon. Drafts first, followed by drivers.

Sale Managed By
New Holland Sales Stables, Inc.
 Barn 717-354-4341 Fax 717-355-0706 • David Kolb, Mgr. 61L

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Special Dairy Sale

10 A2A2 Jerseys

SALE HELD AT FISHER'S QUALITY DAIRY SALES
 3304 OLD PHILADELPHIA PIKE, RONKS, PA.

FRIDAY, MARCH 14 • 10:00 A.M.

We will be selling many good, young, fresh cows and heifers with lots of milk from overstocked herds and heifer raisers, Reg. and grades, **including:**

- Reg. 2 yr. Red & White Warrior-Red, fresh, milking 80 lbs. Dam VG-86 2-02 305 21,770 4.2 909 3.4 734. 2nd dam EX-92 5-03 365 51,970 5.1 2672 3.5 1809. 3rd dam Show Mar Kit Kat EX-94 3E 6-0 365 78,550 5.0 3961 3.0 2358. 4th dam EX-94 3E 7.2 305 37,230 3.9 1436 2.8 1036.
- Reg. 2 yr. Red & White Abe Light, fresh, milking 100 lbs. Dam EX-92 2E 5-03 51,970 5.1 2672 3.1 1809. 2nd dam Show Mar Kit Kat EX-94 3E, same pedigree as cow above.
- 5 top, fresh 2 yrs., milking up to 100 lbs., from one farm with 29,500 herd average.
- 15 fresh 2 and 3 yr. Jerseys from one farm. All fresh 30-90 days, 10 of them are A2A2. This is a fancy uddered group with lots of milk. Individual components sale day.

Plus many more good, young cows and heifers with lots of milk.
 Free chocolate milk • Not responsible for accidents

Sale managed by: **FISHER'S QUALITY DAIRY SALES**
Jonas Fisher • 717-768-3297
 Auctioneer - Dave Stoltzfus - AU005655 • Pedigrees - Dan Albright

BRUBACKER'S QUALITY DAIRY SALES



10 BROWN ROAD, SHIPPENSBURG, PA



Thursday, March 20 @ 10:00 A.M. Special Dairy Cow & Heifer Sale

- ★ We are expecting a nice selection of top fresh cows from local overstocked herds!
- ★ **Brandt-View sends several fancy fresh cows, with some nice genomic A2/A2 fresh heifers!**
- ★ **Selling heifers from milk calves to close springers!**
- ★ Several breeding age bulls out of good cow families including an Ayrshire, Blue-Spruce Ringer son! **Dam Steel-Fire Burdette Gracen EX-91,2E!** Next 6 dams **VG or EX** with multiple show winners in pedigree!
- ★ **Super 30 semen tank with over 2500 units of semen!** Including Majik, Montego, Dynamite, Keano - Red, Blizzard, Denali, Orlando, **Sexed WatchOut**, Diesel - Jersey, Angus, and more... Call for list. Bring your tank!

NOTE: All cattle vet checked and vaccinated. All cows crossing state lines will be tested Friday, and should be ready Friday afternoon. Trucking available.

Can't make the sale? You can now participate online at Cowbuyer.com.
 For on-line questions, call Katie Shultz 717-543-7883.

Manager/Auctioneers
 Jason Brubacker Lic. AU5608
 717-729-0173

Darryl Jones Lic. AU5194
 717-226-0776



Sale Barn
 Ivan Brubacker
 717-414-6657

Pedigrees
 Art Kling

states. Call Mikey Barton at 518-567-8046 today for inquiries/scheduling.

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3 Dairy Equipment

3 MODEL #202DA JUG livestock waterers. Frost free. \$400 each OBO. Lancaster Co., Pa. 717-471-7709.

WESTFALIA SURGE autotandem milking parlor. 2x4 stalls, good condition, can see working. Variable speed vacuum pump, plate cooler and pipeline washer included. All for \$6000. 570-809-6567. (3/7)

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40 HOLSTEIN COWS, ALL A2A2, averaging 70 lbs., 4.8 butterfat. Somerset, Pa. 814-233-8693. (3/21)

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5 Heifers & Calves

12 REG. HOLSTEIN BRED heifers. Sired by high type bulls. Most bred to high type sexed sires. Some to Angus. Call or text 716-801-2562.

6 Dairy Bulls

REG. BULL - homozygous polled, A2A2 and R&W. Great production, components and cow family. Perry Co., Pa. 717-799-3699.

B&W AND R&W POLLED homozygous Holsteins, A2A2. Some genomically tested also. Lebanon Co., Pa. Con-Ger Farms. 717-821-1454.

WANTED - Reg. Jersey bull, 12-15 mos. old. 856-478-2942.

REG. HOLSTEIN BULLS for sale. Ar-Joy Farms, Cochranville, Pa. 610-637-7423.

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BULLS FOR SALE & LEASE - Reg. Holsteins, any age out of dams with records to 30,000M, 1200F. Stump Acres. York Co. Call 717-792-3216.

7 Semen, Embryos

WELCOME CLASSTOPPER semen. A2/A2 aAa 213645 2-3 VG-85 +2798 GTPI. \$15/unit. Delivery available in some areas, can ship. Streamline Genetics, 607-965-0089 or 706-578-0731.

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CUSTOM COLLECTING - WE custom collect your bull at our facility. Semen is processed with high quality standards at very competitive rates. We also offer short-term housing options during collection. Triple-Hil Sires 855-955-2100.

DONEGAL-CREEK BAXTER Pedro-ET, reg # 139932533. He is EX-94 AAA (4352). From 5 EX dams - 94, 90, 91, 91 & 95. Dam is 94 pt. Outside daughter, still in herd at 10 yrs. old & looks half her age. Sire stack is Baxter, Outside, Rudolph, Conquest, Starbuck, Citation R, Elevation. Very well balanced bull siring the right kind. Strength with dairyness. High productive life, low SCC, high

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9 Equipment & Machinery

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PUBLIC AUCTION

Watson-Hamblin Farm Dispersal

Located on farm at 275 Gameland Road, Columbia Crossroads, Pa.

Friday, MARCH 7, 2025
Starting 10:00 a.m. w/Equipment

8 Tractors, Farm Machinery, Skid Loader
Hay, 225 Dairy & Beef Cattle

7 JD TRACTORS, SKIDLOADER

JD 4250 tractor, CAH, FWD, 15 spd. power shift, 6122 hrs.; JD 4020 tractor, side console, syncro shift, w/ canopy; 1968 JD 4020 tractor, syncro, rebuilt; JD 3020 D tractor, side console, syncro, w/ JD loader-wfe; JD 2520 D tractor - side console, syncro shift, w/ JD 48 loader; JD 4010 tractor, wfe, syncro shift; 2030 D utility tractor-diesel; Ford 8600 tractor, dual power (high range is out).

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For info on cattle, call Jerry:
(607) 590-0558

For info on machinery, call Eric:
(570) 250-8683

TERMS: Cash or good Pa. check day of sale. (Out of state buyers, if unknown to Auction Co., must have current bank letter of credit). Nothing removed until settled for.

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Central/Western PA

Regional Manager:
Lititz, PA

Dan Ingle
Tyrone, PA
(814) 935-8610

Centre Hall, PA

Keith Hershey
(814) 571-8795

Kittanning, PA

Matt Smith
(724) 525-0334

Millmont, PA

Ken Heimbach
(570) 847-9150

Watsontown, PA

Jim Ulmer
(570) 490-4166

Winfield, PA

Keith McCool
(570) 847-8645

South Central PA

Hollsopple, PA

Nathan Spory
(814) 341-9134

Chambersburg, PA

Brian Horst
(717) 360-0483

Shippensburg, PA

Ed Okuley
(717) 816-6082

Area-wide

Tyrone, PA

Dave Russell
(814) 935-2640

Watsontown, PA

Don Sanders
(570) 713-4393

PA Warehouse

Lititz, PA
(717) 581-1558