

*As we joyously celebrate the birth
of our Saviour, Jesus, and thank God
for the greatest gift of all time ...
We also wish to acknowledge our friends and
offer our gratitude for their valued support.*

*From the Farmshine family to your family...
Our sincerest wishes for a Blessed
Christmas Season and a New Year filled
with priceless gifts, especially good health
and happiness. And may a good measure of
prosperity come your way in 2024 too.*



Missy, Doug, Sue, Ashley, Dieter & Tammy

Merry Christmas

FARMSHINE

We rise every week to cover farmers and agribusinesses



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Mailed the day before →

December 22, 2023

'Dairy Moms' and 'Secret Santa' connect, inspire and share

By RENEE TROUTMAN
Special for Farmshine

MYERSTOWN, Pa. — Sometimes dairy women need a place where they can come together in their uniqueness. One such place is on Facebook in the private group called "Dairy Moms." With nearly 5000 members and growing fast, this group, created six years ago, is a place where dairy women can share their personal highs and lows and ask for advice on anything from family to cows and everything in between. Ideas are shared. Friends are made. The burden of life is lifted. Women with a common thread of dairy contribute recipes, memories, tragedies, and special moments with each other.

In recent years the month of December has become a highly anticipated time among the members of the group. This is when many members of the Dairy Moms group partake in "Secret Santa" fun together. What started with a handful of women in the group blessing each other with a Christmas-time gift just five years ago has now ballooned to more than 500 women participating all across North America and around the world.

A website called Elfster helps keep it simple and does all the work of putting it together. Organizer and Ohio dairy woman Jodi McDonnell announces to the group when signups on elfster.com are available in early November. Women can put

their names in for the virtual draw and even create a wishlist of what they would like. At the beginning of December, the website

emails the name of who each participant is to send a gift to and the gift exchange officially begins. "It's always nice to receive a

a Mom. It's a way that members can ask questions, learn from others, and share things about life in their own little community.

pleasant surprise in the mail," McDonnell said.

As those women begin to receive their gifts in the mail, pictures of the gifts are promptly posted on the Dairy Moms Facebook page along with grateful sentiments from the recipients. "The women who do this always look forward to the gift exchange," McDonnell said. "Some women put a lot of thought into what they gift."

The thoughtfulness and creativity of what went into the selection of the gifts shines through in each picture shared. What is equally as great is the joy and gratitude expressed by each recipient. Women seek to encourage and uplift each other through what they give.

The gifts range in scope from practical to fun to edible to crafty, and many are a reflection of the geographic region of the gifter. Of course, cows and anything dairy-related are a theme of the gifts too. Everyone in the group enjoys sharing in the excitement as the gifts are revealed.

"The group as a whole looks for ways to come together and grow their sisterhood," McDonnell said. "This is a neat way for everyone to connect and to know that someone thought of you over the holiday season."



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Cherlyn Beiler's recipes	5	Letter from a reader	15
Christmas art/greeting	22	Market Moos	13
Classified advertising	28	NMPF views/news	24-25
CoBank outlook for 2024	10	Obituary, Louise Witmer	7
Dairy Summit invitation	9	Ohio grazing conference	17
Editorial	4	Ohio veterinary lab	16
Grinch in the Senate	19	Scholarships available	12
Holstein announcements	8	Whole milk advocate	3

THE WEEKLY DAIRY FARM FAMILY MAGAZINE

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 — J.R., South Carolina

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Farm Show reception is about food

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding invites Pennsylvanians to taste the finest Pennsylvania-produced food and drinks at the 108th Pennsylvania Farm Show's PA Preferred® Reception on Friday, January 5th.

PA Preferred celebrates a milestone in 2024 — 20 years since the program launched to support Pennsylvania farmers through a statewide brand for their products. The program connects farmers and agribusinesses with a brand identity for the products they grow, harvest, or produce, creating opportunities for consumers to easily identify and purchase locally grown and processed food, beverages and other agricultural products like hardwoods.

The reception will be held in the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex. Tickets are \$40 for the general public, and in honor of the 20th anniversary, \$20 for PA Preferred members, and free for military-veteran farmers who are members of Home Grown By Heroes. The ticket price includes admission to the reception, parking, heavy hors d'oeuvres, beverages, and a short program featuring the people and products Pennsylvania agriculture.

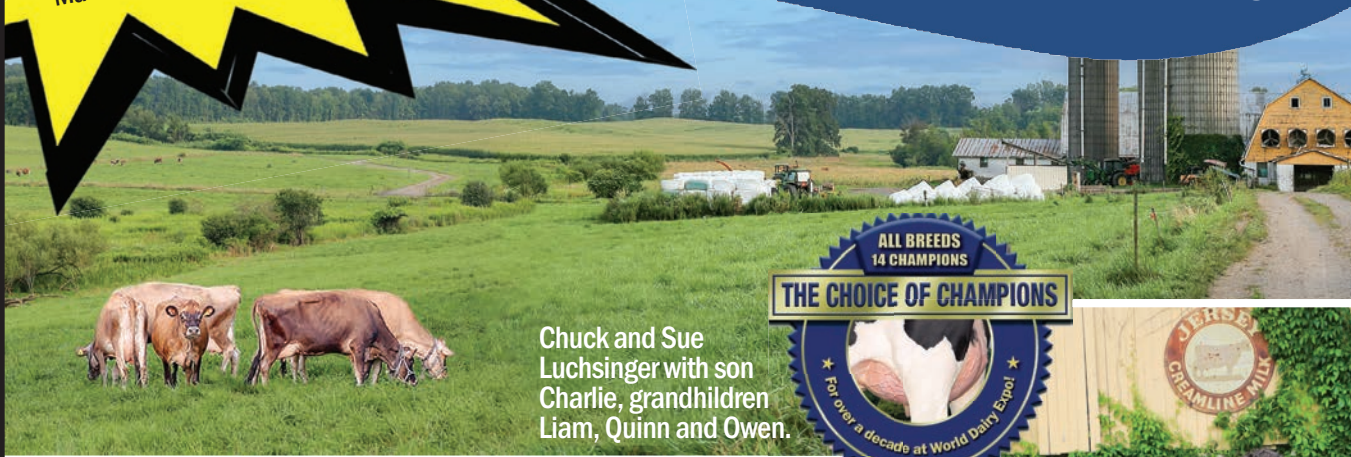
PA Preferred members, and other organizations and businesses can support this event through in-kind product donations to the proposed menu. A wide range of sponsorship opportunities are also available. Supporting businesses and organizations will have their names or logos displayed during the event and will receive complimentary tickets.

More information, including ticketing details can be found at farmshow.pa.gov. RSVP for the event on Facebook.

- See us at
- Keystone Farm Show, York, PA, Jan. 9-11
- NY Farm Show, Syracuse Feb. 22-24
- Central Plains Dairy Expo, Sioux Falls, SD, Mar. 19-21
- WPS Farm Show, Oshkosh, WI, Mar. 26-28

“The knock-offs just don't do it.”

— Chuck and Sue Luchsinger



Chuck and Sue Luchsinger with son Charlie, grandchildren Liam, Quinn and Owen.



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Chuck, Sue and son Charlie have a century herd of elite Jerseys at Silver Spring Farm, Syracuse, New York. Over half the 60 cows are EX, with high components on rotational grazing and some TMR. They earned over 60 Premier Breeder and nearly 50 Premier Exhibitor banners over 100 years at NY State Fair. Chuck recalls getting SSF Andreas Linda ready for the 2022 State Fair.

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House Education Chair Virginia Foxx solidly behind whole milk

By SHERRY BUNTING
Special for Farmshine

WASHINGTON, D.C. — House Education and Workforce Committee Chair Virginia Foxx of North Carolina was in the Christmas spirit as she brought H.R. 1147 -- The Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act -- to the House floor for debate on Wednesday, December 13.

The bill later passed in an overwhelming vote of 330 to 99. All House Republicans voted in favor, except for Matt Gaetz of Florida, who voted 'no.' The majority of House Democrats, 112, voted in favor with 99 voting 'no.' Even House Democrat Jim McGovern of Massachusetts, who had argued against the bill as-is in the Rules Committee the previous day, wanting to add soy drink to the bill, ended up voting for the bill, without the soy amendment in the end!

Following is Chairwoman Foxx's unedited introduction of the bill:

I rise in strong support of H.R. 1147, The Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act.

It's Christmastime across America. For many, the season brings with it the annual return of cherished Christmas traditions such as leaving milk and cookies out for Santa Clause and his reindeer to enjoy. As for my family, our traditional choice of dairy has always been whole milk.

We want only the most nutritional option for Santa. The nutrients in whole milk, like protein, calcium and Vitamin D provide the fuel Santa needs to travel the whole globe in one night.

Whole milk is the unsung hero of his Christmas journey.

Protein helps build and repair Santa's muscles, hoisting heavy sacks of gifts up and down the chimney is no easy task.

Calcium is vital for strong bones. It is calcium that keeps Santa strong and steady as he dashes from rooftop to rooftop.

And Vitamin D is essential to a strong im-



ALLOWING WHOLE MILK IN SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

REP. VIRGINIA FOXX
R-North Carolina

After the opposition said adding 'soymilk' is the thing to do to cut down on waste in school cafeterias, House Education Committee Chair Virginia Foxx replied: "We are concerned about waste. We are putting children first. Soy drink is not milk. It is a plant-based food. It isn't milk, so you can't call it soy milk, you can call it soy drink. But my colleague is saying whole milk has such an enormous amount of fat. Well, the fat content of whole milk is only about 3.5%!"

Screen capture from C-Span

mune system. Santa absolutely needs one as he braves the cold wintry night.

You see, it's not just the magic of the season that helps Santa deliver presents worldwide, it's also the fortifying nutrients of whole milk.

Reflecting on Christmas traditions this year begs the question: If whole milk is a good option to fuel Santa's extraordinary Christmas Eve journey, then why isn't it an option for American

schoolchildren in their lunchrooms?

That's why I support Representative G.T. Thompson's Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act -- a bill allowing unflavored and flavored whole milk to be offered in school cafeterias.

Since 2012, the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program has allowed only low-fat and fat-free milk options for American schoolchildren. This means 2% and whole milk have been

excluded from the daily diets of an entire generation of kids.

The USDA intends to finalize another rule, which will further limit milk options (proposing to end flavored milk in elementary schools).

Anti-milk advocates advance one main argument against whole milk, that whole milk is bad for kids.

Rather, milk has 13 essential nutrients that are needed for children to live healthy lives and succeed in school. It's an essential ingredient to growth and development.

Research shows that whole milk is associated with a neutral or lower risk of heart disease and obesity. Moreover, the USDA contradicts itself by limiting milk options for young children. On one hand, it recognizes children are at risk of under consuming dairy. Yet on the other, it creates policies that will only exacerbate the problem.

If Americans have learned anything from these past three years, it's that scientific authorities tend to contradict themselves.

The truth is that whole milk is a significant source of vital nutrients for children's growth and development.

The federal bureaucracy should never stand in between your children and a nutritious lunch.

The Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act isn't about advocating for one type of milk over another, but providing parents, schools and service providers with the option to choose what's best for our children's nutrition. This act does not mean to diminish the importance of other milk (fat) varieties.

Rather, it seeks to restore the availability of a wholesome, natural option that has been a staple for generations.

This bill is about choice. It's a chance to empower parents and schools to make informed choices about what goes into our children's diets.

Whether it is a nutritional foundation for Santa's journey or your child's math homework, let's not discount the benefits of whole milk.

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Farmshine Editorials

By Dieter Krieg
Farmshine Editor



'Well done is better than well said.'

— Benjamin Franklin

Some act 'politically correct' while a few do what's right

So, two days before the House of Representatives voted 330 to 99 in favor of passing the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act (H.R. 1147), the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) sent out a statement encouraging its passage.

The "Dairy Defined" statement was dated Dec. 11, 2023; the House vote came late in the afternoon on the 13th.

What are we to make of this?
At best, better late than never.
At worst, wishy-washy defined.

Shame on NMPF! Where have they been since 2012, when this campaign for reason, fairness and sound nutrition started at the grassroots level; born out of frustration over the selfish, sneaky and deceiving tactics that are at the core of country-wide milk marketing cooperatives and related organizations.

Arden Tewksbury, manager of the local Pro Ag organization, Meshoppen, Pennsylvania, sounded the alarm immediately in 2012 and incessantly for years thereafter. We salute him, among others; not NMPF.

NMPF may have been paying attention at the time; but performance suggests that they actually looked the other way. As they themselves look back now, they admit: "Taking the most popular varieties of milk out of meals was a questionable decision in 2012."

Questionable!? That's it!? Very lame!

There was no effort at all by any of the dairy organizations which supposedly have "clout" — such as NMPF and DMI (Dairy Management, Inc. — to challenge the stupidity and threat of the ruling. None whatsoever! In fact, the traitors at DMI were (and still are) fully on board with USDA's stalinistic order to ban whole milk in public schools, institutions and other public places such as restaurants, hospitals and hotels. The order by USDA has left nothing but devastation in its wake. Farms are gone. School milk (skim) is wasted like never before. A generation of milk drinkers has been lost. All of it deliberately engineered; make no mistake about that. Villain Vilsack is not dumb. To credit these results as "accidental" would be a gross absurdity. We just mentioned the proof.

Truthful information about whole milk was (and continues to be) censored in the United States of America, if funded by the rip-off, a.k.a. the "check-off."

Consequently, the painted round bales began to appear, bearing the message that whole milk is 97% fat-free. Soon after: "Bring whole milk back into school." The grassroots, all volunteer and privately funded educational effort took hold, evolving into what is now widely known as "97 Milk." Every individual and business involved in this humble and heroic campaign is a true hero of the dairy industry.

Ditto for our admirable friends at Allied Milk Producers Cooperative, who steadfastly advertise whole milk. You've seen their billboards, Im sure.

Most recently, the pivotal vote in the U.S. House of Representatives affirmed what dairy farmers and countless allies have been working so hard for. Hopefully, this affirmation will begin the process of having the ill-advised, USDA-enforced law struck from the books in the near future.

For over 10 years, DMI has done absolutely nothing to defend whole milk. Not anywhere; at no time. Instead, they pushed an undeniably anti-dairy agenda, with dairy producers paying for it all through their mandatory rip-off, checkoff. And it continues.

For over 10 years, NMPF was silent.

And, on December 11th, by then very keenly aware that the grassroots effort for whole milk in schools had overwhelming support to pass muster on the House floor, NMPF suddenly pretends to have been in agreement all along.

You know what's that like, NMPF folks?

It's like an entire cheerleading squad sleepily and quietly warming the benches for 10 long seasons and then ... when the team qualifies for the Super Bowl, they decide to get off their lazy butts and give a shout.

Where has NMPF been all this time?
Reading memos on political correctness?

The NMPF "news release," which appears on page 25, was well worded but poorly timed. Late! Extremely late!

Had it arrived 10 years ago, NMPF might have convinced this editor and the vast majority of Farmshine readers that the Arlington, Virginia-based organization was squarely and unequivocally on the farmers' side. But they weren't. Instead, they were wishy-washy. They should quit patting themselves on the back and start earning their accolades legitimately!

Along those same lines, readers may also want to look over the "good bye" remarks sent by outgoing NMPF President and CEO, Jim Mulhern, on page 24.

But before you go there, let's make it clear who the real champions are in this effort to bring whole milk back into our schools, starting with the Honorable Representative Glenn "GT" Thompson of Pennsylvania. He took an interest in this gross injustice at the hands of our own government soon after he knew of it. He had no reservations about joining the fight to correct a wrong. He worked extraordinarily hard to score a win for dairy farmers and indeed the American public, especially our children. "GT" never gave up.

Neither did his "sidekick" Bernie Morrissey of Ephrata, who raised awareness, dollars and standards. He never let go.

NMPF never gave a hoot.

NMPF mentions a "disconnect" in their Dairy Defined propaganda piece. And sure enough, there is a disconnect. The term can appropriately be applied to NMPF and the now fewer than 27,000 dairy farmers they claim to represent.

We can't help but wonder what the thoughts might be of the 45,000 dairy farmers who exited the dairy business in just the last 25 years. Was "National Milk" on your side or not?

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GOD's gift to Mankind, JESUS CHRIST THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE. BORN to be CHRISTMAS. Immanuel means GOD WITH US. HE IS FULLY GOD. Obedied the whole law of GOD, lived a perfect life, something no human being can do because of our sin nature from Adam. Jesus was then unjustly charged & suffered. Died on the cross (Good Friday) to pay for all Mankind's sin. "While we were yet sinners, JESUS CHRIST died for us." Romans 5:8.

The extra good news: He also rose again 3 days later from the dead to offer all the gift of all sins paid & ETERNAL life in HEAVEN forever to all who repent and believe only Jesus is GOD the son and the only way to Heaven. John 14:6. "As no good deeds can remove any sin."

"For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of GOD: not of works, lest any man should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9. To make this Christmas more than a gift exchange, feast and football fest; what will you do with GOD'S gift, the LORD JESUS CHRIST? Repent and believe or reject him? "Believe in the LORD JESUS, and thou shall be saved and thy house." Acts 16:31.

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Thanks for reading
FARMSHINE



By
Cherlyn
Beachy

Carolers' Warm-up

One of my favorite celebrations of Christmas is caroling for our elderly neighbors. When we arrive cold and breathless back at our house, we end our evening socializing with friends over delicious food. While caroling warms the heart this hearty menu satisfies the appetite. Merry Christmas friends!

- Menu
Hot Cocoa
Three Bean Chili
Cheddar Scones
Spicy Ginger Cookies

Three Bean Chili

Serves 6

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 medium onion
- 2 teaspoon chili powder
- 2 teaspoon brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground red pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon cumin.
- 2 (15 oz.) cans tomato sauce
- 1 (6 oz.) cans tomato paste
- 2 cups beef broth
- 1 (15 oz.) can red kidney beans
- 1 (15 oz.) can butter beans
- 1 15 oz.) chick peas
- 1/2 teaspoon salt



Fry ground beef and onion, in a Dutch oven until fully cooked; drain. Return to the pan. Add all remaining ingredients, except salt. cook on medium-low heat for 45 minutes. Stir in salt just before serving.

Cheddar Scones

Serves 6

- 1 3/4 cup flour
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 2 teaspoon baking powder
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup butter, cold
- 1 cup sharp Cheddar cheese
- 1 large egg
- 2/3 cup cream
- 1 tablespoon melted butter



Combine flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt. Grate butter into bowl. Stir to reduce any large lumps of butter. Combine cream and egg. Add slowly and stir until just moistened. Knead 3 or 4 times. Place on a greased baking sheet and pat into a 7 inch circle. Cut into a 6 wedges, but do not separate. Bake at 400°F for 16 to 18 minutes. Brush with melted butter and separate the wedges.

Spicy Ginger Cookies

Makes about 3 dozen

- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups flour
- 2 teaspoon soda
- 1 1/2 teaspoon ginger
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 cup sugar
- 3/4 cup butter
- 1/4 cup light molasses
- 1 egg
- 2 teaspoon minced fresh ginger
- 1/4 cup crystallized ginger
- Raw sugar



Whisk together first 7 ingredients. Set aside. Using an electric mixer, beat sugar, butter, together. Add molasses, egg and continue mixing. Add remaining ingredients. Chill dough several hours. Roll into 1 inch balls then roll in raw sugar until coated. Place 2 inches apart on a large baking sheet. Bake at 350°F until golden for about 15 minutes. Remove from pans to cool.



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Admar.....10,12,14	LB Manufacturing.....15
Agri-King.....32	Leabrook Ag.....25
Agri-Trac.....9	Martin's Roofing.....12
Alpha Genetics (Immu-Pro)....4	Meyer, Dick Company.....6
Bargain Page.....28	Morrissey Insurance.....13
Beiler Industries.....19	Myers, Roger Insurance.....9,25
Beitzel Spraying.....6	National Farmers.....16
Brubaker, Rufus Refrigeration..6	Nelson & Sons Concrete Gr...15
Building Directory.....15	New Holland Sales Stables...27
Case, Harold D., Jr.....29	Nicholas Meat.....25
Cedar Crest Equipment.....23	Pa. Ayrshire Breeders Assoc..20
Corle Building Systems.....24	Patz.....24
Esch Hay Equipment.....19	Penns Valley Livestock.....29
Farmer Boy Ag.....17	Power Systems Electric.....17
Fisher & Thompson.....7	Precast Systems.....28
Fisher's Quality Dairy Sales.....28	Premier Select Sires.....24
Fraley Auction Company.....27	Rissler Conveyors.....29
GEA North America.....18	Rissler, I.H. Manufacturing.....8
Gehm, L.R.....20	Shady Lane Curtains.....3
Holstein Association USA.....30	Slate Road Supply.....14
Homestead Nutrition.....8	Sollenberger Silos.....28
Horst Grain Roasting.....28	Sturdy Built Manufacturing.....7
Innovative Dairy.....11,31	Triple M Farms.....29
Intertribal Ag Council.....21	Udder Comfort.....2
JBS.....6	Univest Bank.....8
JBZ Dairy Advantage.....5,9	Weaver, Tim Auction Service 28
Keystone Concrete Products..16	Willow Road Silo Doors.....29
King's AgriSeeds.....13	Zimmermans Storage.....4,29
Lancaster DHIA.....10	

Dairyman's Datebook

DECEMBER 30, 11 a.m. Pennsylvania Holstein Association South-Central District meeting, Hoss's Steak & Sea House, Mechanicsburg, (at the intersection of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Exit 236 and Route 15).

DECEMBER 31, Maryland Holstein Futurity entries are due.

JANUARY 6, 1 p.m. Listening Session with Glenn ('GT') Thompson, Delaware Room, Farm Show Building, Harrisburg, Pa.

JANUARY 6, 5-7 p.m. Reception in support of Congressman 'GT' Thompson, hosted by the Scott Sechler Family at The Millworks, 340 Verbeke Street, Harrisburg, Pa. Admission: \$150 per person.

JANUARY 9-11, PDPW Managers Academy for Dairy Professionals* presented by Professional Dairy Producers* (PDPW) at the Hilton Baton Rouge Capitol Center, Baton Rouge, La.

JANUARY 9-11, Maine Agricultural Trades Show, Augusta Civic Center, 76 Community Drive, Augusta.

JANUARY 13, noon, Annual luncheon and meeting of the New Jersey State Holstein Association, Amwell Fire House, 22 County Road 579, Ringoes.

JANUARY 15-17, Georgia Dairy Conference, Marriott Savannah Riverfront Hotel & Conference Center, Savannah.

JANUARY 16, 10:30 a.m. Pennsylvania Holstein Association Central District meeting, at the PHA Office, 839 Benner Pike, State College.

JANUARY 23, 11 a.m. Premier Select Sires Customer Appreciation meeting, Shady Maple Smorgasbord, East Earl, Pa.

JANUARY 25-26, Northcentral Ohio Grazing Conference, Mt. Hope Event Center, 8074 State Route 241, Mt. Hope.

JANUARY 27, Maryland Holstein Junior Jamboree, Carroll County Extension Office, 700 Agricultural Center Drive, Westminster.

JANUARY 30, 9 a.m. Franklin County Crops Day, Kauffman Ruritan Community Center, 7289 Ruritan Drive, Chambersburg, Pa.

FEBRUARY 1, 6:30 p.m. Taste of Maryland Agriculture Celebration at Live! Casino & Hotel Maryland at Arundel Mills, 7002 Arundel Mills Circle 7777, Hanover, Md. For more information, please call Gail Yeiser: 410-353-3069.

FEBRUARY 9-11, Pennsylvania Holstein Convention, Hilton Scranton & Conference Center, 100 Adams Avenue, Scranton.

Auction Guide

DEC. 27, 9:30 a.m. Special Sheep & Goat Sale, New Holland Sales Stables, New Holland, Pa. Sale managed by New Holland Sales Stables.

DEC. 28, 11:15 a.m. Special Dairy Sale, Fisher's Quality Dairy Sales, Ronks, Pa. Sale managed by Fisher's Quality Dairy Sales.

DEC. 29, 7:30 a.m. Horse Consignment Auction, Penns Valley Livestock, Centre Hall, Pa. Sale managed by Penns Valley Livestock.

2024

JAN. 1, 8 a.m. 18th Annual Hoover Tractor Inventory Reduction & Consignment Dispersal, Mifflinburg, Pa. Sale managed by Fraley Auction Company.

JAN. 1, 8 a.m. New Year's Day Sale, New Holland Sales Stables, New Holland, Pa. Sale managed by New Holland Sales Stables.

JAN. 3, 10:30 a.m. Dairy Cow & Heifer Sale, New Holland Sales Stables, New Holland, Pa. Sale managed by New Holland Sales Stables.

JAN. 9, 9 a.m. Public Auction, Christiana, Pa. Sale managed by Tim Weaver Auction Service.

JAN. 16, 9 a.m. King Farm Auction, Lititz, Pa. Sale managed by Tim Weaver Auction Service.

FEB. 10, Pa. Holstein Convention Sale, Scranton, Pa. Sale managed by Pa. Holstein Association.

Hoard's Dairyman will air outlook, January 8

FORT ATKINSON, Wis. — The next Hoard's Dairyman webinar will take place on Monday, January 8 at 1 p.m. (Eastern time), a dairy markets and policy outreach specialist with the University of Wisconsin-Madison, will present, "The dairy situation and outlook for 2024."

To register for the webinars, please visit www.hoards.com/webinars.

These educational sessions are held the second Monday of each month and are broadcast live. Attendees are encouraged to submit questions before, during, and after the webinar. They will be answered at the conclusion of the presentation.

There is no cost to register or to view the webinars. To sign up, go to the Hoards Dairyman Webinar 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 415,000 viewers.



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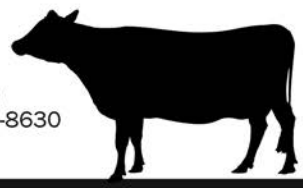


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Louise Witmer led a full and fulfilling life with Guernseys

WILLOW STREET, Pa. — Louise Augusta Victoria (Zeitler) Witmer, 97, went home to be with the Lord on Thursday, December 14 with her family at her side at The Glen at Willow Valley Communities. She was the widow of the late Raymond F. Witmer, a renowned Guernsey breeder.

Louise was born in Ashland, Wisconsin on April 1, 1926, the daughter of the late Peter and Elizabeth Zeitler, who had emigrated to the USA in 1923 from the village of Theta near Bayreuth in southern Germany.

After her family moved to Dublin, Pa. and Elkton, Md., they settled in Glasgow, Del., where she graduated from Newark High School. The family developed Zeitler Farms, a large (for its time) well-regarded purebred Guernsey dairy farm. Louise loved all animals and was heavily involved with the care and management of the young stock.

A group of Lancaster County Guernsey breeders visited Zeitler Farms in 1950. Among the group was Raymond F. Witmer. Louise (shyly) caught his eye, and the rest is

history; 61 years of marriage. Raymond and Louise partnered to develop and operate Penn-Del Farm (the farm on which he was born), a nationally recognized purebred Guernsey farm located along Beaver Valley Pike, in Strasburg Township, for 36 years.

They developed numerous cows with high milk production records and award-winning type. Most prominent was Penn Del Farm's pride and joy, Penn Del Vesuvius Glenna, a three-time national champion cow. Louise and Raymond were recognized in many dairy-related business circles including at the county, state, and national levels.

Louise had a big smile, a hearty laugh, and a huge heart. She was always ready to learn about someone's day or adventure. She was a cookie and pie-maker whiz. At Christmas,



Louise Witmer

she would be scouting out shoeboxes to wrap in festive paper and load with cookies to share with family, friends and neighbors.

There was one lone apple tree near the farmhouse, and for her, none of those apples could go to waste. Jars of applesauce would be flowing everywhere and shared with anyone who happened to stop in on any occasion.

Her dogs were constant companions ... if you needed to find her, you looked for one of them and she would be nearby. She enjoyed taking walks on the farm, walking stick in hand. She never lost her cheerful perspective on life and could brighten anyone's day.

Louise was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Strasburg for 71 years, throughout which she served as a deacon, Sunday School teacher, avid prayer warrior, and active member of the Presbyterian Women's Association, where she prolifically used her crocheting and quilting talents. Additionally, Louise was an active member of Farm Women Society #22, where she served as secretary for many years.

Louise is survived by her four children: Peter C. (husband of Phyllis J.) of Lancaster; Mark Z. (husband of Betty J.) of Lancaster; Susan L. Silverstein (wife of Mitchell L.) of

West Chester; and Mary A. Wile (wife of William H.) of Willow Street; and five grandchildren: William Witmer of Lancaster; Kenneth Witmer of Kailua, Hawaii; Jenna Witmer of Lancaster; Zacharie Silverstein of Seattle, Washington; and Gabriel Witmer of Lancaster; and seven great grandchildren. The last of her Zeitler generation, Louise was preceded in death by brothers Christian Zeitler, Fritz Zeitler, Hans Zeitler, Maximilian Zeitler and a sister, Elizabeth (Zeitler) Haenlein.

The family expresses its profound thanks and gratitude to the staff of the Glen at Willow Valley Communities for the loving and affectionate care provided to Louise over the 10 years she was a resident there. Additionally, a special thank you to Caring Hospice Services for their comfort and support over the past many months.

A private traditional interment will be held in Willow Street Mennonite Cemetery. A Celebration of Life will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Strasburg, 101 South Decatur Street, Strasburg, Pa. on Saturday, January 13, at 11 a.m. with Rev. Robert K. Bronkema officiating. An informal visitation will be held following the service. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Louise's memory may be sent to Caring Hospice Services, 101 Good Drive, Lancaster, PA 17603, or Water Street Mission 210 South Prince Street, Lancaster, PA 17603. Arrangements entrusted to Murray A. Miller. reynoldsandshivery.com

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Subscriptions and renewals appreciated

Dear Reader:

Compared to just two years ago (2021), postage for periodicals such as Farmshine has now increased by 28 percent. Frankly, this is an increase that threatens our survival. Once again — as we did last year at this time — we need to remind readers to renew their subscriptions.

And, of course, new subscribers are always welcome. As thousands of readers have discovered for themselves, Farmshine is a source of information that you will not see in other newspapers or magazines. We tell it like it is!

A recent note from Lynne M. in California is typical: "Thank you for the work that you do reporting on all the important dairy and farm issues!"

Farmshine's current subscription rate is \$20 for one year, which comes to only 39 cents per week. A slightly better deal is offered if you subscribe for two years at a time: \$38.

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HAUSA invites award nominations

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. — Outstanding Holstein breeders and dairy industry leaders are recognized each year with Holstein Association USA's annual awards. These include the prestigious Distinguished Young Holstein Breeder, Distinguished Leadership, and Elite Breeder recognitions.

"A highlight of every National Holstein Convention is recognizing our deserving award recipients for their contributions to the Holstein breed, Holstein Association USA, and the greater dairy community," says Holstein Association USA CEO John Meyer. "We look forward to continuing to add to the high-caliber list of award recipients and encourage you to nominate people you feel are deserving."

Holstein enthusiasts are invited to submit nominations for the Elite Breeder and Distinguished Leadership awards. Applications for the Elite Breeder and Distinguished Leadership awards are considered for three years after initial submission. Current Holstein breeders between the ages of 21 and 40 are encouraged to apply for the Distinguished Young Holstein Breeder award.

About the awards:

- The Elite Breeder Award honors a living Holstein Association USA member, family, partnership, or corporation who has bred outstanding animals and thereby made a notable contribution to the advancement of U.S. Registered Holsteins.

- The Distinguished Leadership Award is given to an individual who has provided outstanding and unselfish leadership that has contributed to the improvement of Holstein Association USA and/or the dairy industry.

- The Distinguished Young Holstein Breeder Award recognizes significant accomplishments of young Registered Holstein® breeders ages 21 to 40. Submissions can be made for individuals, a couple, or business partners. The winning applicant will receive travel and lodging expenses (for up to two people) to National Holstein Convention, complimentary tickets to the Convention banquet, and a \$2000 cash award.

Award applications are available on the Holstein Association USA website at www.holsteinusa.com/awards/individuals

Nomination applications must be post-marked by January 31, 2024.

PHA District meeting set for Dec. 30

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — The South-Central District of the Pennsylvania Holstein Association will hold a meeting on Saturday, December 30, to seek nominations to serve on the Executive Committee and begin the planning for the 2025 state convention. The meeting will start at 11 a.m. at Hoss's Steak & Sea House, Mechanicsburg, (at the intersection of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Exit 236 and Route 15).

Glenn Brake will complete his 3-year term on the Executive Committee. Any Pennsylvania Holstein Association member from Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry and York counties can make nominations. Up to three nominees can be submitted from this meeting to the State Directors for election to the Executive Committee at the 2024 Pennsylvania Holstein Convention set for February 9-11, 2024 at the Hilton Scranton in Scranton. (Please see list of PHA Board of Directors from the South Cen-

tral Region, 2011 - present, by county, below. The group will also discuss the 2024 South-Central Championship Show and any other issues members may wish to address.

2011-2023 PHA Board of Directors South Central Region

Adams: Robby Sebright, Joshua Sanders, George Sebright

Cumberland: Harry Thompson, Aaron Cornman

Dauphin: Mike Miller

Franklin: Marcus Martin, Glenn Brake, Justin Burdette

Lancaster: Jeff Bender, Richard Mellinger

Lebanon: Daniel Brandt, Donald Krall, Gary Lentz

Perry: Irene Osborne, Karen Diffenderfer, Amber Smith

York: Roy Thompson, Daphne Lang, Charlene Walker

2024 HAUSA convention rooms should be reserved

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. — Hotel rooms for Holstein Association USA's 2024 National Holstein Convention and 139th annual meeting will be held June 24-27. Coined "Udderly Utah," the 2024 Convention will feature traditional favorites such as host day tours, junior contests and activities, the National Convention Sale, and the annual awards banquet.

New in 2024, Holstein University will highlight a variety of topics within the dairy industry and beyond through engaging speakers. Exclusive trade show hours, a family friendly welcome reception, and an adult social mixer will provide additional networking opportunities for convention attendees. Holstein Association USA members and enthusiasts are encouraged to book hotel rooms early and make plans for a fun week in Salt Lake City this summer.

Located in the heart of downtown Salt Lake City, the Hyatt Regency is within walking distance of numerous restaurants, bars, and activities. Discounted rates for the National Holstein Convention are available from June 22 through June 29, 2024, as room availability allows. Rooms can be booked today at www.holsteinconvention.com/accomodations.

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Applications must be submitted by January 16th

Dairy Summit scholarships available to 18 to 30-year olds

HARRISBURG, Pa. – The 2024 Pennsylvania Dairy Summit, which will be held February 7-8 in Lancaster, Pa., will be preceded by the Young Dairy Professionals Reception at 5 p.m. on February 6th. All Dairy Summit events will be held at the Lancaster Wyndham Resort and Convention Center. Any young dairy professionals between the ages of 18 and 30 as of February 1, 2024 are encouraged to apply for a scholarship.

Young Dairy Professionals Scholarship recipients will receive a discounted rate of \$50 to attend the full Dairy Summit, a complimentary hotel room, access to the Young Professionals Opening Night Reception, access to the new, in-depth Young Dairy Professionals Career Development Workshop, and the opportunity to talk one-on-one with industry professionals within their chosen areas of interest.

Scholarship applicants must be a resident of Pennsylvania or enrolled in an agricultural program at a Pennsylvania-based college or university. They must also meet one of the following categories:

- Operate or work on a dairy farm or
- Be enrolled in an agricultural degree program at college or trade school or
- Be enrolled in an agriculture program at a high school or
- Teach agriculture at a high school, college, or university

Applicants must also agree to pay the discounted \$50 registration fee that is awarded to scholarship recipients. Checks should be made payable to "Pennsylvania Dairy Summit."

To apply for a Young Dairy Professionals scholarship, applications must be submitted

by January 16, 2024.

Visit www.padairysummit.org and click on "Young Professionals" on the top right.

Contact Michelle Shearer at mshearer@centerfordairyexcellence.org or call 570-768-8316 with questions.

"Whether you work on a dairy farm or are enrolled in an agricultural degree program at a college or trade school, we encourage you to apply for this scholarship opportunity. It's a great way to expand your network, hear from a panel of young dairy professionals who are currently working in the industry, and take your skills and strengths to the next level through our first-ever career development workshop," said Michelle Shearer, workforce development manager at the Center for Dairy Excellence.

"We're excited to offer scholarship recipients with an additional learning opportunity at this year's Dairy Summit. During the Career Development Workshop for young professionals, you will learn about your unique personality strengths, how you naturally communicate, solve problems and address conflict, and how you can leverage your strengths both in the workplace and throughout job searches," Shearer added. "Our workshop leader will share resume-writing tips, how to project confidence in an interview, and strategies for how to best connect with individuals who have differing work styles. This is an excellent opportunity for young dairy professionals to gain skills they can immediately apply in the workplace, in the job search process, and in other professional settings."

In addition, Young Dairy Professionals

Scholarship recipients will participate in a Career Development Workshop on Wednesday afternoon, February 7, during the Dairy Summit led by Jill Smith of Cornerstone HR & Management Consulting. Students will gain in-depth, real-world career development training using the Predictive Index work style strength assessment tool. Through dynamic instruction and activities specifically designed for young professionals, attendees will learn to understand their strengths, their challenges, and how to use this information to shape how they pursue future job opportunities and relate to others in the workplace.

At the opening night Young Dairy Professionals Reception, scholarship recipients will hear from a panel of young professionals who will share their wide range of experiences and career advice in the dairy industry. Each panelist is a previous Student Leader Scholarship recipient. The panel will include:

- **Josh Brubaker**, partner at Brubaker Farms LLC in Lancaster County, Pa. In December of 2017 after coming home from college, Josh began working full time on his family farm. In 2020, he took the opportunity to buy-in and join his dad, Mike, and uncle, Tony, as a managing partner at Brubaker Farms LLC. Josh focuses a majority of his time towards overseeing the dairy nutrition, rentals and parts of the herd management. He also helps manage the organization of data coming from the farm to enhance decision making abilities for employees and owners. He attained his B.S. degree in ag business management with a specialization in dairy science from Penn State.

- **Nicole Guise**, agriculture education teacher at Millville Area Jr./Sr. High School in Columbia County, Pa. She started the agriculture education program and FFA chapter at Millville three years ago and has doubled participation in the agriculture program over the last three years. She teaches courses in all aspects of agriculture, including animal science, horticulture, food science, environmental science, and agriculture mechanics. Nicole's connection to the dairy industry includes her involvement with her family's dairy herds, Buttonwood Farms and Bentz-Hollow Farm, and her love for coaching dairy judging teams. She holds a B.S. in agricultural and extension education from Penn State and Schreyer Honors College.

Blaine Walizer of Dotterer Dairy in Clinton County is a believer in the program. "The Dairy Summit provided me an opportunity to meet and network with many industry professionals, as well as expand some of my knowledge base on topics necessary to the dairy industry. It was one of the most engaging and interactive conferences I've been to yet, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to be able to attend it as a young dairy professional."

The Dairy Summit is an annual event hosted by the Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania and Center for Dairy Excellence. Attendance will help dairy producers and young professionals unlock their potential through dynamic sessions, networking opportunities, and a new career development workshop specifically for young dairy professionals.

NEXT WEEK: There will be no **FARMSHINE** published on December 29 to allow our staff to enjoy their families at Christmas. **We will resume our weekly schedule beginning January 5, 2024.** Thanks for reading!



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CoBank outlook report examines several key impact factors

DENVER, Colo. — According to CoBank, the U.S. economy has remained remarkably steady despite an unrelenting series of shocks over the last three years. America's economic resilience was again on display throughout 2023, as the Federal Reserve continued the most aggressive round of interest rate hikes the country has seen in more than 40 years. Steadfast consumer spending has fueled the economy through much of the recent adversity. However, lingering high prices are expected to take a bigger toll on the economy in 2024, according to a comprehensive year-ahead outlook report from CoBank's Knowledge Exchange.

The CoBank 2024 outlook report examines several key factors that will shape agriculture and market sectors that serve rural communities throughout the U.S.

Overall in the U.S. economy, key indicators point to strength. Headline inflation has plummeted to 3.1%, the unemployment rate remains below 4% and inflation-adjusted wages are growing. However, large swaths of U.S. consumers remain anxious about their financial situations given high grocery prices, skyrocketing mortgage rates and other infla-

tionary pressures. While grocery inflation is currently running at about 2%, the price of food at home has risen by 25% in the past three years.

Consumer spending makes up almost 70% of the economy and consumers who are worried or angry will hold back on discretionary spending. Inflation-adjusted retail spending has fallen in 10 of the past 12 months, a trend that could carry into 2024.

U.S. government:

The difficulties of governing with slim majorities in both the House and Senate are in clear focus as 2024 draws near. While the House was ultimately able to pass a Continuing Resolution (CR) three days before a shutdown deadline, none of the 12 annual appropriations bills have been enacted. Until Congress can complete its work appropriating discretionary funding, little progress can be made on other major legislation like the Farm Bill.

For rural America, there was a silver lining in the CR as it extended the current Farm Bill through Sept. 30, 2024. However, many reasons favor completing the new Farm Bill

sooner rather than later. Cooperation will become increasingly difficult as the next election cycle begins.

U.S. agricultural economy:

Higher interest rates, a strong U.S. dollar and resiliency of the U.S. economy have weighed heavily on agricultural commodity prices. But the biggest problem for farm margins heading into 2024 is the elevated cost of production. While fertilizer prices have fallen, other costs of production remain stubbornly high. However, ag commodities will benefit from more upside price risk than down in 2024.

Profitability for the U.S. livestock sector should improve modestly in 2024, as lower feed costs and steadfast domestic demand offset weak global export conditions. Beef packers will continue to struggle with shrinking supplies of available cattle. Tighter cattle numbers, flat pork supplies and dampened broiler availability would normally be seen as supportive to margins, but all segments have been fighting rising costs of production. With expansion plans on hold due to the high-cost environment, the industry's focus on efficiency and technology is expected to intensify and risk management will remain paramount. U.S. animal protein will remain competitive in global markets but open access to markets remains critical.

Dairy: growth will continue.

The upside potential for dairy demand faces some uncertainty moving into the new year. Dairy product sales should grow, led by cheese, butter and yogurt. However, that growth will be at a slightly slower pace as U.S. consumers will be pressured by reduced household savings, growing credit card debt and higher interest rates. Ultimately, the wild card is international demand as the world's growing middle class craves more high-quality proteins. If global dairy demand picks up, the U.S. is poised to fill orders as the other major dairy export regions all show signs of static milk production growth. Lower feed costs and improved cow productivity should spur additional U.S. milk production.

About CoBank

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Tickets for Maryland ag dinner are discounted if purchased before January 12

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — The 54th annual Taste of Maryland Agriculture gala will be held on Thursday, February 1, at Live! Casino & Hotel Maryland at Arundel Mills in Hanover, Md.

Tickets for the event are \$100 person if ordered before January 12; individual ticket prices are \$130 after January 12. To order tickets online, go to www.mdagcouncil.com.

Sponsored by the Maryland Agriculture Council Inc., more than 800 people are expected to attend the premier event where agriculture education grants will be awarded, and Governor Wes Moore is expected to introduce the state's Agricultural Hall of Fame honoree.

"Our mission for this event is to promote our vital and diverse agricultural industry and educate lawmakers about its importance to every citizen in Maryland," said Council President Matt Tefteau. "As farmers, we are proud to produce food, fiber and fuel. We are proud to create jobs. We are proud to safely sustain and preserve and protect our land and natural resources. But it takes cooperation and mutual understanding and respect with our elected officials to keep us viable and strong."

Gala attendees will be offered a smorgasbord of Maryland-produced foods and beverages and will learn and see firsthand the financial commitment that the Council has made to agriculture education programs across the state. Several initiatives will be recognized with the awarding of over \$12,000 in grants to individuals and organizations.

The Governor's Agriculture Hall of Fame award will be presented to a farm family that has demonstrated an exceptional commitment to agriculture and the community in which they live and work.

For ticket information, reservations or more information, contact Executive Director Susan Summers at 240-446-3601 or ssummers@comcast.net

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Merry Christmas to everyone!

Mike Weimer of Emlenton, Pa. has once again used his imagination and skills to create a Christmas greeting, using primarily large round bales. He's been doing it for years. Those who travel the road near his home can see the seasonal display as they pass by. For those not traveling in his area, Mike — a well-known Holstein classifier — shares the greetings through Farmshine. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Photo provided

ADANE scholarship applications requested

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — American Dairy Association North East (ADANE) reminds college students that applications for their scholarships are due by December 31.

ADANE is offering two scholarships for college students who have completed one year of post-secondary education and are interested in agriculture, dairy product marketing, dairy manufacturing, agricultural communications, journalism or dairy product nutrition.

Applicants for the \$500 Leo Briggs Memorial – American Dairy Association North East Scholarship must have exhibited leadership in dairy promotion.

Applicants for the \$1000 Dawn Houppert Memorial – American Dairy Association North East Scholarship must be a current or former dairy ambassador or dairy princess from New York.

All applicants must be from one of the six states in the ADA North East region – New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey and northern Virginia.

Completed applications must be submitted online and must include essay responses and a current college transcript.

The applications are available on AmericanDairy.com under "For Farmers/Scholarships and Grants." For more information about either scholarship, contact Beth Meyer at bmeyer@milkm4u.org

Premier Select Sires offers scholarship opportunities

TUNKHANNOCK, Pa.—Premier Select Sires will award up to \$20,000 to students within the Premier territory through the 2024 Premier Future Ag Leaders Scholarship Program. Two exemplary students will receive \$2500 scholarships through either the Johnny Daniel Memorial Scholarship or the Wayne Dudley Scholarship. Several other students will receive scholarships of \$750-\$1000 in value.

Scholarship application forms are now available under the "News" tab of www.premierselectsires.com, by calling (570) 836-3168, or by emailing office@premierselect.com. Completed scholarship applications are due January 31, 2024.

Eligible students include high school seniors through college seniors presently enrolled or planning to enroll in an undergraduate agriculture-related major. The student or his/her parent or guardian must reside in the Premier membership area and must be an active Premier customer in good standing. Previous scholarship winners remain eligible during subsequent award years; however, a student can only receive a \$2500 scholarship once in his/her school career.

The Premier Future Ag Leaders Scholarship Program provides financial support to eligible college undergraduates in agricultural majors. The program provides additional return to the cooperative's member-owners by supporting the next generation of young people desiring to study and work in the agriculture industry. The Premier Select Sires, Inc. board of directors has made a commitment to providing money to support this scholarship program on an ongoing annual basis.

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The Gift of Christmas I pray to live up to my mother's example

Christmas is a time to celebrate God's love, sending His only son to be born of humble beginnings, grow to be a man of spiritual teachings and miracles -- God in the flesh -- to experience the human condition, pay the ultimate price for all we humans do wrong to each other, and ultimately be victorious over sin and death. That's THE GIFT of Christmas!

The season can be fraught with trials and loss that can jar one's spirit amid the quickening pace of holiday preparation. As I write this, I think of my mother, Shirley Curry, the angel who recently gained heavenly wings. In the predawn hours of Nov. 30, 2023, at the age of 84, she died at home with me by her side. One of the last things she said on Nov. 29 was to tell me: "One more day, and then we're going to have a party."

You see, even though I and her hospice nurses didn't expect such rapid decline that day, my mother already knew. She knew she was going home to be with her Lord and Saviour. I sat with her, thinking on what she had said. I knew she was sad to leave me, but happy to join my father, my younger and only brother and sister, and my grandparents for Christmas this year. She was smiling because she put her trust and hope wholly in the Lord.

My mother was a homemaker and encourager. Every Christmas season began with a marathon Sand Tart bake (like pictured on the cover of Farmshine this week). Mom was a caregiver, seeing Dad through seven years of Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP), a debilitating and rare form of Parkinson's, before he passed away Dec. 22, 2001 at the age of 64.

On the same day that the Whole Milk bill passed the U.S. House, it was fitting that another bill also passed overwhelmingly -- The National Plan to End Parkinson's Act, to create a plan to prevent, treat, and cure Parkinson's Disease, including atypical Parkinsonisms like PSP. But science goes only so far. Our trust, faith, hope and joy are in the Lord, the foundation in shifting sands.

My mother is remembered for her kindness, sweet smile, and sense of humor, which endeared her to others. She won the hearts of those helping me care for her in her final weeks, as well as those whom she had cared for while working for the former Special Care of Lancaster after my father died.

The challenges, trials and losses throughout her lifetime, did not steal her joy because her joy was in the Lord.

A member of the First Baptist Church of Lancaster, she loved the Lord, sang in the choir, served as church secretary and deaconess. Her 'green thumb' nurtured flowers -- and relationships.

Well-acquainted with loss, she didn't dwell on it. With a fun-loving spirit and keen affection for the 'little ones' through the years, she embraced the simple moments that bring joy and laughter to life. Even the hospice nurses and aides who visited to help me care for her at home over these last four months, remarked about her joy, her smile, her courage.

I pray I can live up to my mother's example in this: the nurturing of relationships, taking-in life's simple moments and treasuring them, focusing on what is important, trusting God with the worries and cares... remembering our joy is in the Lord.

Whole Milk debate mooves to Senate

On Wed., Dec. 20, H.R. 1147, the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act that had passed the House 330 to 99 on Dec. 13, was read a second time in the Senate and placed on the Senate Calendar under General Orders. This means any Senator can file objections at this time. A 'unanimous consent' vote after the first-reading on Dec. 14 was blocked by the objection of Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.), chair of the Senate Ag Committee. The identical Senate bill S. 1957 has 12 sponsors to-date, and must go through the Senate Ag Committee to get to the floor. Contact your Senators and ask them to cosponsor S. 1957. Pennsylvanians should especially focus on Senator Bob Casey, Jr., to seek his cosponsorship of the measure. Pennsylvania's Junior Senator, John Fetterman, has already signed onto this bipartisan legislation. On Dec. 20, a letter signed by at least 33 members of the State Assembly was sent to Senator Casey seeking his support for S. 1957.

Output off, domestic demand up, stocks shrink

Third quarter domestic commercial use of milk in all products grew at an annual rate of 2% during August through October. This, combined with a 10% annual drop in the volume of U.S. dairy exports, has led to little change in total commercial use. But the domestic and export use still outpaced milk production, which was down by half a percent. The net result is on a milk equivalent, total milk solids basis, aggregate inventories of all dairy products in the U.S. were down by 17% from May.

The milk production report Mon., Dec. 18 showed U.S. farms produced 0.6% less milk in November vs. year ago. Cow numbers, in fact, were down 10,000 from the previous month and down 44,000 from a year ago. In the East, New York's output was up just 0.5%; Pennsylvania and Vermont down 1.4% and 3.4%, respectively. Virginia gained 1.8% in milk vs. year ago while Georgia was up 1.2% and Florida up 6.2%. The tri-state Mideast (Ohio, Michigan, Indiana) made 2% more milk than a year ago. In the



Central U.S., South Dakota gained 7%, while surrounding Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois were virtually unchanged to fractionally higher. In the Southwest, New Mexico continued double-digit losses, off 10%, while Texas trailed by 2% its prior-year rapid growth level, Kansas and Colorado were off 1.5 to 2%, No. 1 California off 1.7%, but Arizona was up 3.7%, and No. 3 Idaho up 1.2%.

PMMB continues \$1 OOP on 2-1 vote

The PMMB voted 2-1 to continue the \$1.00/cwt. over-order premium for Class I fluid milk sales in Pennsylvania for January through June 2024. The lone dissenting vote came from Pa. Milk Marketing Board member Jim Van Blarcom during the virtual sunshine meeting Dec. 13. The \$1.00 OOP plus variable fuel adjuster of about 66 cents per cwt. are built into Pennsylvania's minimum retail milk price each month, but passed directly to farmers only when the produced-processed-and-sold chain is unbroken.

Jan. Class I mover \$18.48 instead of \$19.46

The January Class I advance base price 'mover' was announced Wed., Dec. 20 at \$18.48, down \$1.28 from December and \$3.93

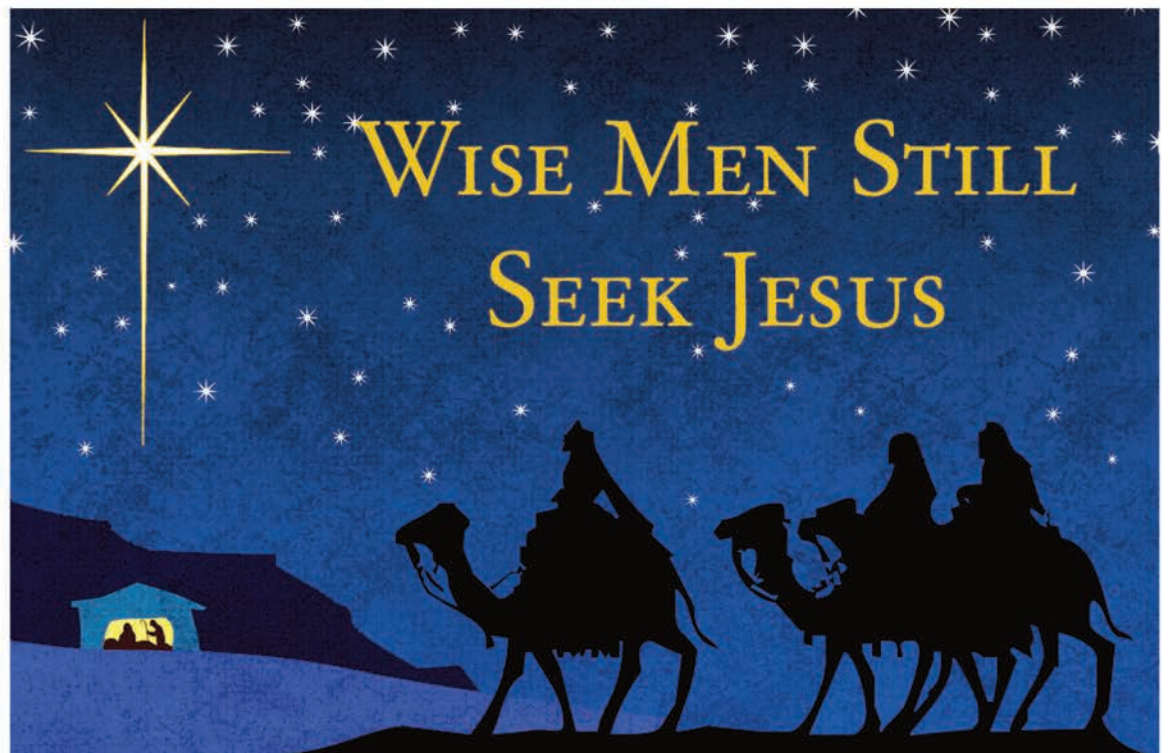
below year ago. If the skim portion had been calculated using the previous 'higher of' method, the Jan. Class I mover would be \$19.46 instead. That's a formula-based loss to dairy farmers of 98 cents per cwt. on all Class I milk next month, following a \$1.09/cwt loss this month and a 75-cent/cwt loss last month. Net loss for 57 months since implementation in May 2019 is now estimated at nearly \$1.1 billion. Class III and IV milk futures suggest these formula-based Class I value losses are likely to continue to negatively impact farm milk checks into Q1 2024.

Milk futures and cash dairy sales split trends

Class III milk futures followed cheese prices lower. Q1 2024 contracts fell 75 cents/cwt into the \$15s. Class IV milk futures improved, supported by higher butter prices. On the close Wed., Dec. 20, Class III futures for the next 12 months averaged \$17.51, down 22 cents from week ago, Class IV \$19.44, up 13 cents.

The CME spot cash markets for dairy products were lower again this week. Butter was the only winner, pegged at \$2.6050/lb on Wed., Dec. 20, up 14 cents/lb from a week ago with zero loads traded. Grade A nonfat dry milk lost 2 cents, pegged at \$1.1575/lb, one load traded. Cheese plunged: 40-lb blocks lost 16 cents at \$1.4475/lb with 5 loads trading; 500-lb barrels fell to \$1.3925/lb, down 12 cents with 11 loads trading. Dry whey at 38 cents/lb was a penny lower 5 loads trading.

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Lancaster County farmer takes top honors in soybean contest

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Lancaster County farmer Eric Charles was the state's top producer in this year's Pennsylvania Soybean Yield competition, sponsored annually by the Pennsylvania Soybean Board. His winning yield topped more than 30 other entrants at 101.00 bu./acre.

Regional winners

The contest recognizes not only the statewide grand champion, but also the top growers in each of five production regions across Pennsylvania, based on maturity maps:

- South-Central Region – Eric Charles (Lancaster County); 101.00 bu./acre
- Central Region – Ian Stamy (Cumberland County); 84.71 bu./acre
- Southeastern Region – Brad Kiefer (Northampton County); 93.73 bu./acre
- Western Region – Thomas Hoovler (Mercer County); 74.74 bu./acre



As the top state winner, Eric Charles will receive an educational trip for two to the Commodity Classic.

• Northern Region – John Tebbs (Lycoming County); 78.98 bu./acre

Growing conditions

The smoke streaming into Pennsylvania from Canadian wildfires this summer didn't just affect air quality, said Penn State Extension Senior Educator Andrew Frankenfield, who coordinates the contest with fellow Senior Extension Educator Del Voight. It also impacted field crops.

"The smoke from the wildfires was a big concern early in the summer," said Frankenfield. "It reduced solar radiation and caused concerns for crop growth and development. Fortunately, the worst of the smoke occurred in early June when crops were smaller and were also experiencing drought conditions which helped alleviate some stress by reducing leaf surface temperatures and transpiration off the plants."

The average yield in the 2023 contest was 76.54 bu./acre. Charles was the only grower to surpass the 100 bu./acre level this year, but there were three farmers who produced over 90 bu./acre, and eight whose beans yielded over 80 bu./acre.

More than half of the contest entries were planted by April 26, not just in the south-central region, but throughout the state due to a dry month that ended with soaking rain. Most areas experienced an extended dry period from May to mid-June. More frequent rains returned from mid-June into July, with August turning dry for many areas. September precipitation was average.

"Generally, there was good harvest weather," Frankenfield continued, "October weather was drier than normal which allowed for good harvest conditions."

Top grower

Eric Charles, the statewide and South-Central Region winner, planted Pioneer P34A65PR variety after ryelage with a no-till drill on 7.5" rows on May 4. He used a 2-pass herbicide program and applied a fungicide and an insecticide. His crop received only 0.20" of rain from planting until the middle of June. From mid-June to July, he received about 9" of rain, but only 2" in August. In September, more frequent rain returned totaling about 5.25" for the month. Charles harvested his crop on October 11 and followed-up after harvest planting wheat as a cover crop.

As the top state winner, Eric Charles will receive an educational trip for two to the Commodity Classic, the annual joint convention of the American Soybean Association, National Corn Growers Association, National Association of Wheat Growers, and the National Grain Sorghum Producers. The regional winners will also receive an educational trip to the Commodity Classic.

The contest was introduced by the Pennsylvania Soybean Board to showcase crop management practices of some of the top soybean producers in the state. A summary of the crop production practices from the 2023 contest entrants is available from Penn State Extension educators and is also posted at pasoybean.org

Clover Patch Cornucopia V sale averaged \$1628

MILLERSBURG, Ohio – The Clover Patch Cornucopia V – held online through Kreeger and Associates on November 29th – averaged \$1628 on 288 head of registered Jersey cattle, ranging from 5-month old calves to fresh cows. The bulk of offerings from Alan and Sharon Kozak's closed herd were open and bred heifers.

Buyers and bidders from Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Texas, Puerto Rico and Canada supported the online sale at kreegerdairy.com

Fresh cows averaged: first-lactation (14) \$2800; second-lactation (3) \$2450, third-lactation (2) \$2050. Pregnant females: first-lactation (28) \$2221, second-lactation (10) \$2220, third-lactation (7) \$1600. Bred heifers: third trimester (17) \$2125, second trimester (63) \$2090, first trimester (9) \$1725. Open heifers: Yearlings (26) \$1160, 8-10 months (70) \$1114, and 5-6 months (39) \$844.

Alan said the all-online method worked well for them. While their registered prefix remains Clover Patch, the farm business has formed now as Kozak's Jersey Dairy, LLC.

Central PHA members to meet

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — The Central Region of the Pennsylvania Holstein Association will conduct a meeting on Tuesday, January 16, beginning at 10:30 a.m. to discuss the Central Championship Show for next year. The meeting will be held at the Pennsylvania Holstein Office, 839 Benner Pike, State College.

Any Pennsylvania Holstein member from the Central Region is invited to attend this meeting.

Merry Christmas!

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Kudos to Congressman Thompson and 'whole milk folks'

Editor:

Kudos to Congressman GT Thompson and all the "whole milk" folks! At last, finally, a full House of Representatives vote went our way, approving the "Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act," H.R. 1147, and in a bipartisan manner, to boot! Now, is the Senate going to do the right thing and also approve their S-1957?

"Whole milk" for kids is nothing but common sense, but it took over a decade and a lot of blood, sweat, and tears on the part of the intrepid supporters! Way to go! Keep it going and the prayers coming!

Folks, if only we could also correct the unjust policies keeping the farmers' milk price so far below what it costs to produce milk, which we have been working on since 1981! Very soon to be 43 years! That was when the "evil empire," as the editor of *Farmshine* refers to it, aggressively took over federal dairy policies. It seems we've got the best government "dairy policies" that money can buy! Who is behind all of this, and what do they gain from harming children and dairy farmers alike?

Meanwhile, thank you, Editor, for your timely and accurate editorial of December 15. Thanks for calling a spade a spade. We must keep calling the "evil empire" out for what it is!

Farmers who are not speaking out against the "evil empire" are aiding and abetting their own destruction.

Pennsylvania has a proud history of rebelling against injustice and tyranny. Consider the coal miners and steelworkers who died standing up for justice.

Just as the fight for "whole milk" for school kids started years ago, at first, with the efforts of only a few, including an early advocate, Pro Ag's Arden Tewksbury, the number of people fighting to give school kids the chance to drink "whole milk" expanded dramatically, making it possible to finally convince legislators to right the wrong. It is reasonable to wonder, after 43 years of unjust milk prices, when will enough people finally take an equally determined stand

against the appalling, low milk prices dairy farmers continue receiving and begin to work tirelessly to bring fair milk prices to the dairy farmers who produce the whole milk?
It infuriates me when powerful people are allowed to cal-

lously steal my private property, my cows' milk, by not paying me what it is really worth. This must be stopped.

Joe Cochran
Tioga County, Pennsylvania

Organic Valley welcomes new members in many states

LA FARGE, Wis. — In a year marked by significant challenges for small family farms and rural communities, Organic Valley, the largest cooperative of organic farmers in the nation, is not just seeking more milk but actively welcoming more farmers.

The cooperative brought 84 family farms into its fold in 2023, suggesting that the expansion is not just about numbers. It's about a growing movement, with plans to welcome more farms in 2024.

"This is who we are," said Shawna Nelson, Organic Valley executive vice president of membership. "Our commitment to organic family farmers is unwavering, and we aim to be the go-to option for those seeking a stable future in farming."

This year alone, Organic Valley welcomed 26 organic family farms from Pennsylvania, a dozen more from Wisconsin, 22 in New York, six from Ohio, and several others from Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota and Vermont. By doing so, Organic Valley continues to strengthen its supply chain across multiple regions, bringing an organic market and sense of community to farms nationwide.

"We can't do this alone," said Jaclyn Cardin, Organic Valley chief brand officer. "If you care about how your food is produced and who is producing it, we think we offer a lot. We want consumers to buy with both heart and head, knowing that Organic Valley products come from a place of integrity. Because we're a farmer-owned cooperative, when you purchase our products, the farmers who dedicate themselves to caring for the land, the animals and their communities receive stable and farmer-determined compensation. We believe good food comes from good, small family farms."

Founded in 1988, Organic Valley is owned by over 1600 of its members.

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An architect's rendition of the new Ohio Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

Ground broken for state-of-the-art veterinary campus

By **SUSAN MYKRANTZ**
Farmshine Correspondent

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio -- When the new Ohio Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (OVDL) is completed it will provide Ohio's livestock industry with access to the latest technology and scientific advancements.

"This is an exciting day at the Ohio Department of Agriculture," said Brian Baldrige, director of the Ohio Department of Agriculture. "Our livestock industry and agriculture community has advocated tirelessly for this much-needed enhancement to the services we provide at the Ohio Department of Agriculture. We appreciate the support from the legislators and the administration for advocating for this cutting-edge technology as we continue to protect livestock and the citizens of this great state."

The new facility, which will be housed in the Dr. Tony Forshy Animal Health Building, has been funded through the

Capital Budget signed into law by Governor Mike DeWine last summer and allocates \$72 million for the new lab.

Adam Sharp, executive vice president of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, noted that the current facility is not meeting the needs of the state's growers and producers. Because of this, a significant number of laboratory tests needed by Ohio farmers and businesses are sent to laboratories out of state.

For the livestock industry, the new facility means that test results will be available to producers much faster, according to Cheryl Day, vice president of the Ohio Pork Producers' Council. She reported that her producers are currently sending about 80 percent of the tests they submit out of state for testing for faster results. Ironically, one benefit of Covid 19 was that it brought to light the problems of an older lab, according to Day, and it finally pushed the stakeholders to take action.

Scott Higgins, CEO of the Ohio Dairy Producers Association credits the Ohio Pork Producers Council for taking the lead

on the new facility. But the pork producers couldn't do it alone, and Higgins reached out to the dairy veterinarians in Ohio and they went to the legislature to stress the need for an updated testing facility.

The commodity groups took the initiative to build a new facility, according to Sharp, but the Farm Bureau provided support by working with the legislature and the administration to fund the project.

For veterinarians and producers, it is vital to keep testing in the state. The state laboratory provides regulatory testing support for disease control programs and diagnostic laboratory services for veterinarians, livestock producers, and agribusinesses within and beyond Ohio. It conducts more than 452,000 tests a year, which breaks down to 1738 tests a day, and 217 tests an hour.

The new facility is a 70,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility that will include 40% more laboratory space and updated bio-security measures. The building is designed to be more energy-efficient with the flexibility to grow as demand for services increases. Construction on the building is set to begin this month, with an estimated completion date in 2026.

The building was designed by Perkins & Will, an interdisciplinary, research-based architecture and design firm, founded in 1935 on the belief that design has the power to transform lives, according to Ken Phipps, project manager. A leader in High Containment and Veterinary Facility projects, Perkins & Will has designed several facilities that make up the front lines of the nation's biosafety, defense, and research network. They include the Texas A & M and West Texas A &

turn to page 18

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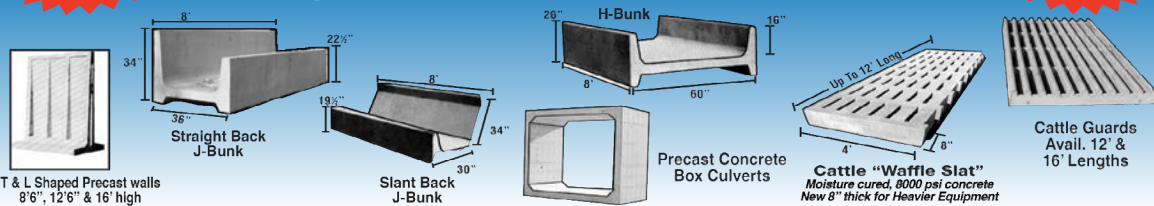
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Grazing Conference in Ohio promises wide appeal

By **SUSAN MYKRANTZ**
Farmshine correspondent

MT. HOPE, Ohio — Farming on an international level and a heroic rescue of trapped miners will highlight the North-central Ohio Grazing Conference, scheduled on January 25-26 at the Mt. Hope Event Center, 8074 State Route 241 in Mt. Hope.

Featured speakers during the two-day event include Matt Steiner, Ivan Troyer, Nathan Weaver, Kerry Estes, Jerry Miller, Merlin Newswanger, David Hershberger, Ervin Barkman, John Weaver, Delmar Kemp, Bill Arnold, Gene DeBruin, Jason Schneider, David Miller, Kevin Miller, Nelson Yoder, and Tom Perkins.

“We try to hit pertinent topics in farming and grazing,” said John Mark Weaver, a member of the conference planning committee. “But we also look for speakers who have a story to tell and will grab the audience’s attention. We believe these speakers will appeal to both graziers and conventional farmers. A lot of this information is relevant to every component of grazing and farming.”

• **Matt Steiner**, for example, a Marshallville, Ohio dairy farmer brings an international perspective to the conference as he shares the work being done in Haiti and Ukraine. Steiner will also discuss adding value to the milk check through the use of genetics and genomics.

• **Bill Arnold**, a Pennsylvania dairy grazer will discuss how he uses management-intensive grazing on his farm and will be back in the speaker lineup to share the story of the heroic rescue of miners trapped in the coal mine deep below the well-managed pastures on his farm.

• **Kerry Estes** comes to agriculture from a manufacturing background, first working with his father in a metal fabrication business before buying a farm with the idea of raising replacement heifers. When buying heifers to raise and sell to other dairymen didn’t work, he began breeding and raising crossbred heifers and building his herd. Eventually, he was able to bring his son into the operation. Estes will discuss family relationships on the farm and also share his farming story.

The conference opens on Thursday, January 25 and highlights include a presentation “Adapting To Decisions” by Ivan Troyer, “Building Soils and Barns” by Nathan Weaver, “Dairy Farming in Haiti at Good Vision Farm”, Matt Steiner, Farm Tour, by Kerry Estes.

Leading off the afternoon session will be a choice of two breakout sessions including “Soil Building Panel” by Marlin Newswanger, Ervin Barkman, David Hershberger, and John

Weaver, or Using Genetics/Genomics, by Matt Steiner, and wrapping up with Making Compost, how it works on our farm” by Jerry L. Miller.

Back for the fourth year is a session for farm wives involved in the family farming operation. The topic for the Thursday session is a panel discussion titled “Privileged to be a Farmer’s Wife” with Esther Miller, Rebecca Miller, Ada Miller, and Barbie Schlabach, and “A Week in the Home of Jared and Kim Miller” shared by Jared and Kim Miller.

The Friday session includes a panel discussion on “Profitable Farm Management” by Benedict and Katie Yoder, Mark and Geneva Miller, Robert and Mary Miller, and Mahlon and Edna Yoder. Wrapping up will be a presentation titled “Starting from Scratch, A Ladies Farm Tour” with Myron and Naomi Yoder.

Also on Friday, Delmar Kemp will lead off the dairy sessions with a presentation titled “Adjusting to the Unknown Farm Tour”, followed by Bill Arnold with a session on “35 Years of Management Intensive Grazing,” followed by “Grazing Feeding Cows,” by Gene DeBruin.

The afternoon session will offer sessions including “Family Relationships on the Farm” with Kerry Estes, and Bill Arnold wrapping up the afternoon session with “Quecreek Mine Rescue.”

The conference will also include a series of presentations geared towards sheep and goat producers on Friday, January 26.

Leading off the sheep session on Friday morning will be Jason Schneider with “Parasite Management in Goats” followed by the Indiana Shepherds’ panel discussion featuring shepherds; David Miller, Kevin Miller, and Nathan Yoder and featuring Myron Yoder as the panel moderator.

Leading off the afternoon sessions for shepherds will be “Training Sheep Dogs” with Myron Yoder, “Building a Profitable Meat Goat Farm from Scratch” by Jason Schneider, and concluding with “A Complete Farm Tour of a Grass-based Hair Sheep Operation” by Tom Perkins.

The deadline for registrations is January 12. The cost of the conference is \$35 per person from the farm if made before January 12th. Participants may also register for a single day; either January 25 or January 26 for \$25. After January 12, registrations may be made at the door and the cost is \$50 for both days and \$35 for a single day. Checks should be made payable to the Small Farm Institute and mailed to 7667 Heifner Road, Shiloh, Ohio 44654.

The conference fee includes meals, breaks, registration, and the trade show, featuring over 100 vendors. The conference is sponsored by the Northcentral Ohio Grazing Council and the Small Farm Institute.

Ohio’s farmland preservation boosted

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio — The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) has announced that nine land trusts, seven counties or townships and 25 Soil and Water Conservation Districts will receive funding to help preserve farmland across the state. Allocations come from the Clean Ohio Fund to select, close and monitor easements under the Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP).

Ohio landowners interested in selling an agricultural easement on their farms can fill out an application with their LAEPP sponsor organization. A total of \$6 million will be made available in this round of funding. Local sponsors have been certified to accept applications in 51 counties. Landown-

ers should contact the certified local sponsor in their county for application details.

The program allows landowners to voluntarily sell easements on their farms to the state of Ohio.

The easement requires the farm permanently remain in agriculture production. Selected farms must be 40 acres or more, actively engaged in farming, participate in the Current Agricultural Use Valuation program, demonstrate good stewardship of the land, have the support of their local government, and not lay directly in the path of development. Landowners may use the proceeds of the easement in any way they wish, but most reinvest it in their farm operations.

Important notice to all readers and advertisers:
There will be no **FARMISHINE** published on December 29 to allow our staff to enjoy their families at Christmas. We'll resume our weekly schedule beginning January 5.



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- 600 Mojonnier
- 600 Mueller M
- 600 **SOLD NJ** OH
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- 625 Sunset
- 700 Mueller M
- 735 Sunset
- 800 Delaval
- 800 Mojonnier
- 800 Mueller OH
- 1000 Mueller M
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- 1500 Mueller OH
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- 2000 Mueller OH
- 2000 Mueller OH
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M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratories, the Washington University Global Animal Health facility, and the USDA's National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility.

"We ensured that the new Ohio Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (OVDL) meets biosafety and biosecurity protocols, while implementing features that answer its specific needs," said Phipps. "For example, the facility will include BSL-3 laboratories which can also function at a "step down" BSL-2 mode of operation. This as-needed containment level adds increased operational flexibility to the facility, which has historically supported the livestock and agriculture communities."

Phipps added that the design of the OVDL also draws inspiration from the people and systems that its work supports. The siting of the OVDL recalls a rural building in a field. Within, the design carefully balances the security needs with maximized access to daylight and outdoor views.

Phipps said Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) decision to replace its facility is emblematic of the challenge faced by similar institutions across the county. The original, 1960s-era facility continued to provide essential regulatory testing and diagnostic services at both the state and national level, but assessments revealed that it was not well-suited to accommodate growth.

"As Ohio's only laboratory accredited by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD), the role of the facility has only increased in importance as the agriculture industry has grown more complex and more global," said Phipps. "Responding to these needs, ODA opted for a ground-up replacement."

Not only does the project feature include the latest biosafety and biosecurity measures, the project had to ensure long-term operational viability. Phipps said the facility's design considers the user experience, workflow efficiencies, and aesthetics of the OVDL and how it will benefit its users, clients, and perception within the industry.

"The improved facility will support strong collaborations, internship opportunities, sustainable staffing levels, and mentorship to support succession," said Phipps. "The ODA was fully engaged in planning and envisioning the new facility. The new OVDL presents a wealth of opportunities beyond the increased capacity."

The new facility features one cohesive laboratory zone across the building's multiple levels. Vertical stacking enables vertical circulation — both elevator and stairs — to be located solely within the lab zone, meaning that once samples are received at the ground floor, they never leave the laboratory environment. The entry points to the lab zone, located at each Diagnostic Testing Station, are also carefully demarcated. Coupled with modern electronic access control devices, this strategy facilitates a dedicated entry/exit protocol to each lab section.

Phipps added that from ease of client sample and animal drop-off to the inter-laboratory functional pathways, efficient design is key for diagnostic facilities. At the OVDL, the central receiving is designed to safely enable a high throughput of incoming samples. Once processed, samples are picked up from a dedicated area connected to the Central Receiving Lab. This area is centrally located within the building and adjacent to the service elevator, minimizing travel distances. Likewise, direct connections between receiving, pathology, and dedicated lab corridor areas provide quick, safe movement of tissue samples via pass-through boxes. These linear "spines" for all laboratory traffic keep samples, lab materials, and lab waste out of the public areas.

The new facility features safe and efficient methods to receive samples and engage clients, including a drive-through service facility, after-hours drop-off facility, dedicated secure client vehicle access, and vehicle/trailer decontamination facility. A dedicated client reception area is included, across from vehicle approach and parking. Phipps said these features will elevate the client experience without sacrificing biologically safe interactions.

The OVDL will be housed in the Dr. Tony Forshey Animal Health Building, a way to honor Dr. Forshey, who served as the state veterinarian from 2006 until he passed away in 2021. Forshey had a passion and commitment to agriculture and animal health and is well known in the agricultural community for his work and dedication. Before joining the staff at the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Forshey was a large animal veterinarian with a particular interest in the pork industry, according to his son, Dr. Brandon Forshey. The younger Forshey said his Dad was passionate about the industry and knew the importance of having access to reliable testing. Asked how his father might have felt about the facility that would bear his name, the direct answer was: "He would say it was about time the facility was upgraded."



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How Senator Grinch from Michigan blocked Santa's Whole Milk delivery

By Sherry Bunting

"Twas the day before Congressional Recess
And all through THE HOUSE,
The Representatives were stirring,
Some as if they saw a mouse.

The amendments had been laid
By the Speaker's desk with great care
In hopes that healthy choices
Of Whole Milk for kids would be there.

The bipartisan support was nestled
All snug in cosponsorship,
While opponents spoke of 'experts'
And hurled their 'expert' admonishments.

Opposers, few, with empty platitudes
And supporters, many, full of truth
Had just settled in for
A long hour of dispute.

Then what to my wondering eyes
And ears should appear?
But the words, and the vote
We had -- for so long -- waited to hear.

Whole Milk for Healthy Kids
Won the House vote
Three Hundred Thirty to Ninety-Nine,
But when a whole-milk-drinking Doctor
From Kansas over in the Senate began to opine
It was Senator Grinch from Michigan
Who crushed his bill sweetly on the vine.

"My esteemed colleague is making me hungry,"
Said Senator Grinch with a sugary smile.
"He's reminding me of growing up with
Cookies and milk," she giggled all the while.

"I grew up with a family of dairy farmers,"
Said Senator Grinch, Chair-
woman of Ag.
"I certainly support milk and the
dairy industry,"
She said, tucking the Kansan's
milk bill into her bag.

"This is an important conversa-
tion
To have and continue having,"
she grinned,
Putting it to bed.

But Senator Grinch, we must tell
you
This conversation, for 10 long
years,
We have had and have had and
have had!

Make no mistake,
The smiling Senator Grinch did
say
She fully supports healthy op-
tions for kids
And lauded milk and dairy that
day.

"But one thing is clear," she said,
As her eyes began to narrow and
jaw firmly set.
"Those school standards for chil-
dren,
They are and should continue on
dietary science to be set."

But wait, what else to my won-
dering
Eyes and ears did appear?
A recorded memory of Villain Vil-
sack
In 2015 (at a House hearing to be
clear.)
"There are no scientific facts,

Only well-informed opinions"
To do these Guidelines, my dear.

He talked of preponderance
Of evidence and such.
He said: 'Oh no' we can't include
Diets that treat obesity so much.

He said: "These Guidelines are not
What you shall, but what you should,
These guidelines," he said,
"Are something we think is good
For you to consider, but yes,
People will make choices too."

You can choose. I can choose,
That's true, you see,
Unless you are a child in school
Eating meals two of three
Each day of each week
Nine months or more each year.

If you are that child,
Then no choices for you, my dear.

But don't fret and don't fear!
You may choose low-fat
And fat-free,
And a plethora of drinks
Sweetened artificially.

Your choice can be fruity, fizzy
And caffeinated too!
You can choose what you want
If federal bureaucrats agree!

So pop-tarts, chips, cookies,
Doritos, donuts, go ahead!
But whole milk for kids,
Government bureaucrats want
That deal to be dead!

As Senator Grinch from Michigan
Reminded us all that day,
She grew up in a family of dairy farmers,
And supports you all to say
Milk is good and is great, to be sure
But Guidelines ARE supreme
And the children must obey!

"We should not be supporting
Individual food products
That are in our states,"
The Michigan Grinchwoman of Ag
Did scold fellow Senators
With a finger wag.

But isn't Michigan the #5 MILK State?
I wondered aloud,
Then I remembered their specialties
Are Lactose-free, shelf-stable, dairy-based
With major ingredient plants
Making them proud.

Did Senator Grinch read the bill?
Did she look at the evidence?
Talk to schools, parents or kids, if you will?
She could not have done her homework
Of that I am sure,
Because she said, smiling sweetly,
Just have those conversations some more.

And so she went on about USDA,
Dietary Guidelines and Such.
They are the experts,
And heed them we MUST
"They are THE EXPERTS"
And they are meeting RIGHT NOW
To decide for 2025-30 what is best
In Any-who-ville and how!

With the sweetness of honey,

The Ag Grinchwoman did say
All these things as she blocked
The Senate's Whole Milk vote that day.

So now
It's up to us.
We need more cosponsors
To enter the fray.
We need them from Every-Who-Ville
That has a Senator today.

We need them from North
And from South, East and West
We need them to care that children,
Parents and schools can choose best.

We need them to talk to Senator Grinch
From Michigan
As only another Senator
In the Senate really can.

We need them to smile sweetly and say,
Shouldn't children be offered milk
They will drink and not throw away?

We can only hope as Congress return
To Every-who-ville this holiday
That they consider the children
All around them at school and at play,

That they consider their health,
For which whole milk doth provide
Flavor and nutrition, and that they strive
To do better by signing onto this bill right away
The Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act,
Senate Bill S. 1957 by the way.

And that perhaps, just maybe,
We hope and we pray,
That Senator Grinch from Michigan's heart
Can grow 10 sizes -- or more -- this holiday.

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New England, New Jersey, New York

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Cheshire County

MALNATI, VINCENT & CAROL	84 HO	20513	827	631
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Grafton County

GRAFTON COUNTY FARM	56 HO	30253	1234	954
PATCH FAMILY	94 HO	24993	1108	802
MINOT, WILLIAM & DIANNE	16 HO	24072	778	735
MINOT, WILLIAM & DIANNE	17 XX	17317	725	608
HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000				
GRAFTON COUNTY FARM	HO	51	56	
PATCH FAMILY	HO	142	94	
MINOT, WILLIAM & DIANNE	HO	167	16	
MINOT, WILLIAM & DIANNE	XX	198	17	

Merrimack, Belknap Counties

BOHANAN FARM	139 HO	25957	1056	833
CATE, JONATHAN	60 XX	17698	819	608
HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000				
BOHANAN FARM	HO	186	139	

Sullivan County

GARY LECLAIR	271 HO	29625	1200	952
PUTNAM FARMS, INC.	422 HO	26464	1136	842
MACGLAFLIN FARM LLC.	518 XX	24272	1175	779
PUTNAM FARMS, INC.	68 XX	22102	1100	767
LUTHER, JOHN W.	29 HO	23124	859	732
CLARK, GREGORY & MARCIA	26 HO	21273	828	667
LUTHER, JOHN W.	14 JE	16309	817	605
CLARK, GREGORY & MARCIA	34 MS	16452	602	512
HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000				
CLARK, GREGORY & MARCIA	HO	65	26	
PUTNAM FARMS, INC.	XX	93	68	
LUTHER, JOHN W.	HO	103	29	
PUTNAM FARMS, INC.	HO	144	422	
MACGLAFLIN FARM LLC.	XX	161	518	
CLARK, GREGORY & MARCIA	MS	188	35	

VERMONT

Addison County

B. DANYOW FARM LLC.	1075 HO	31591	1308	1010
VORSTEVELD FARM	1475 HO	29133	1272	986
KAYHART BROTHERS LLC.	1210 HO	29781	1276	965
HOWLETT, TIM & JULIE	702 HO	27847	1120	908
LUCAS, JONATHAN	352 HO	28092	1174	895
DEGRAAF HAROLD & ANJE	11 HO	28659	1239	891
DEGRAAF HAROLD & ANJE	175 HO	27579	1185	862
CORREIA, ANTHONY & BARB	419 HO	25751	1097	862
TUDHOPE, MILES & CHERYL	58 HO	25600	1110	845
WILCON FARM	585 HO	26983	1083	844
BRISSON, MARC & NORRIS	1129 XX	25747	1063	838
B. DANYOW FARM LLC.	53 XX	23587	1083	820
TREADWAY, BRIAN	201 HO	24746	1014	770
TUDHOPE, MILES & CHERYL	60 BS	21699	961	766
PHILLIPS, DANIEL T.	41 XX	16446	669	507
HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000				
TUDHOPE, MILES & CHERYL	BS	69	60	
LUCAS, JONATHAN	HO	82	352	
TUDHOPE, MILES & CHERYL	HO	90	58	
CORREIA, ANTHONY & BARBARA	HO	95	419	
B. DANYOW FARM LLC.	HO	99	1075	
B. DANYOW FARM LLC.	XX	101	53	

DEGRAAF, HAROLD & ANJE	HO	113	175
KAYHART BROTHERS LLC.	HO	121	1210
TREADWAY, BRIAN	HO	124	201
PHILLIPS, DANIEL T.	XX	133	41
BRISSON, MARC & NORRIS	XX	152	1129
VORSTEVELD FARM	HO	163	1475
DEGRAAF, HAROLD & ANJE	HO	178	11
HOWLETT, TIM & JULIE	HO	196	702

Caledonia County

DON-SIM FARM	128 HO	26015	1056	839
FREMONT & ETHAN NELSON	229 HO	24308	1021	778
LUCKY HILL FARM	172 JE	19495	1059	762
JAMES W. SEYMOUR	77 HO	23140	1040	756
ACKERMANN DAIRY	66 HO	22112	913	710
LAGGIS BROS.	510 JE	18190	954	650
BRIAN NICHOLS	104 XX	17620	837	638
FREMONT & ETHAN NELSON	27 XX	18231	819	631
WILLSON, DOROTHY & A.	86 XX	16535	792	604
SOMERS, BRIAN & KATH	44 JE	14774	723	534
MARCEAU, DWAYNE & DEBOR	52 XX	14528	689	518

HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000				
FREMONT & ETHAN NELSON	XX	88	27	
SOMERS, BRIAN & KATHLEEN	JE	97	44	
JAMES W. SEYMOUR	HO	101	77	
ACKERMANN DAIRY	HO	117	66	
FREMONT & ETHAN NELSON	HO	120	229	
BRIAN NICHOLS	XX	147	104	
DON-SIM FARM	HO	149	128	
MARCEAU, DWAYNE & DEBORAH	XX	155	52	
BEAN, ERIC	JE	156	43	
LUCKY HILL FARM	JE	157	172	
LAGGIS BROS.	JE	177	510	

Chittenden County

CREAM	63 HO	26735	1078	835
TAFT, BRUCE & MARY	316 JE	18094	1009	689
SHELburne FARMS	121 BS	17859	748	602
HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000				
SHELburne FARMS	BS	109	121	

Essex County

ROUTHIER & SONS, INC.	337 HO	25253	1064	812
HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000				
ROUTHIER & SONS, INC.	HO	80	337	

Franklin County

HOWRIGAN HOME FARM	280 HO	31673	1111	1004
HOWRIGAN, H.J. & A. & LAW	353 HO	29306	1106	935
HOWRIGAN H-9 DAIRY	349 HO	28725	1103	912
MIKE BENJAMIN	559 HO	26867	1075	855
HOWRIGAN, HAROLD J. & SO	351 HO	24919	988	813
DUHAMEL, JAMES & HOLL	364 HO	25712	904	811
MCGARRY DAIRY LLC.	124 HO	25063	1030	810
DALESTEAD FARM & MAPLE	95 HO	23118	977	733
WRIGHT FARM	182 HO	22143	977	731
PAUL-LIN DAIRY LLC.	26 JE	15695	735	586
RANDY & AMY FERRIS	77 JE	16482	766	579
WILLIAMS, BEN	72 HO	17953	728	555
HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000				
WILLIAMS, BEN	HO	78	72	
MIKE BENJAMIN	HO	93	559	
HOWRIGAN, HAROLD J. & SONS	HO	118	351	
PAUL-LIN DAIRY LLC.	JE	120	26	
HOWRIGAN HOME FARM	HO	129	280	
RANDY & AMY FERRIS	JE	136	77	
WILLIAMS, BEN	JE	138	34	
MCGARRY DAIRY LLC.	HO	141	124	
HOWRIGAN, H.J. & A. & LAWRENCE	HO	146	353	

JOHN & CASSIE TIFFANY	XX	160	84
BLODGETT, JAMES & DAWN	JE	173	53
DALESTEAD FARM & MAPLE LLC.	HO	180	95
GREG BOUCHARD	XX	195	127

Grand Isle County

J. & M. LADD FAMILIES FARM	71 XX	19366	692	596
HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000				
J. & M. LADD FAMILIES FARM	XX	94	71	

Lamoille County

MORRILL, ARTHUR & LARRY	29 HO	21328	935	691
HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000				
MORRILL, ARTHUR & LARRY	HO	43	29	

Orange County

GLADSTONE, WALTER & MA	1929 HO	32447	1270	1082
GLADSTONE, WALTER & MA	42 JE	22801	1243	889
HARKDALE FARM, INC.	60 HO	26170	1165	857
ADAM BEAULIEU	67 HO	22450	931	729
HARKDALE FARM, INC.	117 JE	18091	1030	695
SILLOWAY FARMS	65 HO	21147	826	666
WHITE ROCK FARM	150 JE	17773	927	650
ALLENVILLE FARM	90 HO	20964	814	647
ROBERT J. HOWE	26 HO	19636	769	597
CHARLES P. CARRIER	127 HO	17021	738	540
WRIGHT, ANDREW	51 XX	15230	694	537
LEIBOLD, KYLE	30 JE	15468	679	527

HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000				
GLADSTONE, WALTER & MARGARE	JE	82	42	
GLADSTONE, WALTER & MARGARE	HO	99	1929	
HARKDALE FARM, INC.	JE	103	117	
ALLENVILLE FARM	HO	113	90	
SILLOWAY FARMS	HO	115	65	
LEIBOLD, KYLE	JE	119	30	
OUGHTA-BE-FARM LLP	XX	129	61	
CONANT, DEAN & TERRI	AY	135	47	
SMALL, STEVEN & ETHAN	JE	137	46	
ROBERT J. HOWE	JE	138	14	
HARKDALE FARM, INC.	HO	159	60	
WRIGHT, ANDREW	XX	160	51	
WHITE ROCK FARM	JE	169	150	
CHARLES P. CARRIER	HO	188	127	

Orleans County

ANDY & SARAH BIRCH	35 HO	26217	1154	860
NADEAU, AARON & CHANT	153 HO	24747	1015	776
SHEENA BROWN	41 HO	24069	919	742
ADAM & JOANNA LIDBACK	50 HO	22725	970	731
WEBSTER, DANIEL	77 HO	21488	888	723
JOSH POULIN	423 JE	18766	981	703
MICHAUD, J. DENIS & C.	348 HO	22100	856	688
EDWARDS, LYLE & KITTY	50 HO	21236	850	663
ANDY DELABRUERE	54 HO	19903	778	620
LISAI, PAUL	60 XX	19470	942	598
PADDLEBRIDGE HOLSTEINS	61 HO	19931	761	596
RANDALL FAMILY FARM	116 HO	18866	735	592
PATENAUDE, RON	180 XX	18914	709	588
ADAM & JOANNA LIDBACK	29 XX	16421	793	581
WHITTEMORE, DAKOTA	42 JE	14378	769	532
ANDREWS, ANDY	229 XX	16485	646	501

HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000				
ADAM & JOANNA LIDBACK	XX	64	29	
LISAI, PAUL	XX	81	60	
ANDY DELABRUERE	HO	83	54	
ANDREWS, ANDY	XX	104	229	
PATENAUDE, RON	XX	113	180	
ADAM & JOANNA LIDBACK	HO	131	50	
NADEAU, AARON & CHANTALE	HO	133	153	
PADDLEBRIDGE HOLSTEINS	HO	150	61	
RANDALL FAMILY FARM	HO	154	116	
EDWARDS, LYLE & KITTY	HO	160	50	
BREEZY VALLEY FARMS	XX	164	73	
JOSH POULIN	JE	169	423	
SHEENA BROWN	HO	173	41	
DEMAINE, DAN	XX	198	38	

Rutland County

WOOD LAWN FARMS, INC.	130 HO	25665	1049	833
MEDALLION JERSEY LLC.	97 JE	17484	893	670
HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000				
MEDALLION JERSEY LLC.	JE	117	97	

WOOD LAWN FARMS, INC.	HO	148	130
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Washington County

FAIRMONT FARM	1626 HO	29606	1244	978
SETH GARDNER	356 HO	19469	760	608
MOLLY BROOK FARM LLC.	82 JE	14477	690	543
HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000				
MOLLY BROOK FARM LLC.	JE	113	82	
VONTRAPP FARMSTEAD	XX	133	59	
SETH GARDNER	HO	160	356	
FAIRMONT FARM	HO	167	1626	

Windham County

WESTMINSTER FARM	827 HO	29325	1218	951
VERN-MONT FARM LLC.	542 HO	26225	1127	837
MILLER, PETER	258 HO	25813	1013	786
HAMILTON, JAKE	48 HO			

CONNECTICUT

New London County

SNURKOWSKI, STEVE	97 HO	24486	954	762
VALLEY VIEW DAIRY	128 HO	22908	1015	753
CLARK WOODMANSEE III.	132 HO	23398	1140	744

HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000

SNURKOWSKI, STEVE	HO	149	97
CLARK WOODMANSEE III.	HO	151	132
VALLEY VIEW DAIRY	HO	187	128

Windham County

ELM FARM	154 HO	24836	1006	797
ROCK MAPLE FARM 1	19 HO	24223	974	741
ROCK MAPLE FARM 1	19 BS	19089	849	673
ELM FARM	30 XX	19337	918	664
ROCK MAPLE FARM 1	43 JE	17205	870	620
ROCK MAPLE FARM 1	12 XX	18028	772	596
KINGSWOOD FARM	92 AY	17699	724	593

HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000

ROCK MAPLE FARM 1	XX	179	19
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NEW YORK

Allegany County

HESS, LESTER E.	65 HO	27257	1098	842
PLOETZ, GARY & PAT	40 HO	26237	964	797

HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000

PLOETZ, GARY & PAT	HO	107	40
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Broome County

WINSOR ACRES	2019 HO	29074	1140	906
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HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000

WINSOR ACRES	HO	79	2019
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Cayuga County

EZRA WEAVER	82 HO	29123	1159	931
LEROY & CYNTHIA HORST	134 HO	26829	1047	818
HOOVER, ERNEST	92 HO	27099	1118	813
JASON & BETHANIE GLICK	98 JE	15647	752	550

HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000

LEROY & CYNTHIA HORST	HO	43	134
EZRA WEAVER	HO	151	82
JASON & BETHANIE GLICK	JE	152	98

Chautauqua County

COUNTRY AYRE FARMS LLC.	682 HO	28194	1194	924
COUNTRY AYRE FARMS LLC.	27 XX	24718	1114	829

COUNTRY AYRE FARMS LLC.	66 JE	21225	1105	775
PHILIP BECKERINK	76 HO	21837	875	694
FINN STAR FARMS	30 HO	21408	830	676
JASON RHODES	48 HO	18167	691	560

HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000

FINN STAR FARMS	HO	78	30
PHILIP BECKERINK	HO	128	76

Chemung County

LE-DENN FARM	94 HO	24215	900	756
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HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000

LE-DENN FARM	HO	102	94
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Herkimer County

SAMUEL S. KING	70 HO	26479	1014	828
JONATHON SHIRK	44 HO	23900	1011	741
JOHN A. KING	52 HO	21259	861	650
JOHN E. STOLTZFUS	37 HO	19209	799	578

HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000

JONATHON SHIRK	HO	139	44
SAMUEL S. KING	HO	183	70

Jefferson County

BONNYLAND FARM	65 HO	19163	771	615
ALLARD CREST FARM	56 XX	18350	726	593

Montgomery County

GIDEON S. KING	77 HO	24817	996	777
JOHN & CHRIS NELLIS	117 HO	23535	949	740
KELLETT, JR., JOHN G.	76 HO	22015	831	719
PETERSHEIM, IVAN & ESTHER	70 HO	22570	898	708
NESTLE RIDGE FARM	46 HO	21983	935	671
DANIEL B. STOLTZFUS	57 HO	20154	921	650
SAMUEL L. STOLTZFUS	60 XX	20313	877	644
ABRAM MILLER	46 HO	21270	808	640
DELLAVALLE FARM	23 HO	19492	774	614
DREAMROAD JERSEYS LLC.	73 JE	16503	796	601

HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000

DELLAVALLE FARM	HO	84	23
PETERSHEIM, IVAN & ESTHER	HO	181	70

Ontario County

LAKE COUNTRY HOLSTEINS	79 HO	31827	1222	1006
NEVIN SENSENIG	53 HO	29476	1214	944
RUEBEN WEAVER	52 HO	28498	1263	943
HARVEY SENSENIG	61 HO	28666	1136	936
NELSON SENSENIG	50 HO	28285	1131	911
LEON NEWSWANGER	60 HO	29608	1024	910
DAVID BURKHOLDER	46 HO	28266	1183	907
VERNON OBERHOLTZER	89 HO	24700	1081	816
CLEARVIEW FARM	63 HO	25269	998	758
ARTHUR ZIMMERMAN	164 HO	24088	920	750

HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000

VERNON OBERHOLTZER	HO	63	89
NEVIN SENSENIG	HO	72	53
HARVEY SENSENIG	HO	88	61
DAVID BURKHOLDER	HO	130	46
LAKE COUNTRY HOLSTEINS	HO	137	79
NORMAN BURKHOLDER	HO	148	62
CLEARVIEW FARM	HO	167	63
LEON NEWSWANGER	HO	167	60
NELSON SENSENIG	HO	175	50
ARTHUR ZIMMERMAN	HO	197	164

Otsego County

EVAN M. CHARLES	67 HO	26709	1033	867
MARVIN FISHER	54 HO	25592	879	775
MATHEW FISHER	63 HO	22157	1003	692

HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000

EVAN M. CHARLES	HO	166	67
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Schoharie County

SLATEHILL FARM	118 HO	22814	929	741
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Schuyler County

BROOK'S EDGE DAIRY	80 HO	22471	872	711
ALLEN, THOMAS R.	49 HO	16714	666	547

Steuben County

PAUL & KATHIE WHITE	111 HO	28392	1221	900
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HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000

PAUL & KATHIE WHITE	HO	146	111
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Tioga County

LAWTON JERSEY FARM	97 JE	23218	1140	825
FRISBIE BROS. DAIRY	158 HO	22602	957	735
SHIPMAN, DAVID	251 HO	20909	811	673

HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000

SHIPMAN, DAVID	HO	162	251
ROGER FORD	XX	185	43
LAWTON JERSEY FARM	JE	197	97

Washington County

WINDY LEA DAIRY LLC.	155 HO	18620	786	583
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Wayne County

KEVIN HUBER	60 HO	28563	1249	915
RICHARD HORNING	147 HO	26630	1047	858
DWIGHT SENSENIG	75 HO	24091	917	763
LARRY MARTIN	86 HO	24136	954	745

HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000

KEVIN HUBER	HO	44	60
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DWIGHT SENSENIG	HO	138	75
LARRY MARTIN	HO	163	86
RICHARD HORNING	HO	163	147

Yates County

MATTHEW ZEISET	56 HO	29152	1115	893
AMMON REIFF	64 HO	25753	1064	883
NATHANIEL MARTIN	44 HO	27468	1095	883
DAVID MARTIN	52 HO	27578	1134	879
DANIEL K. MARTIN	66 HO	28071	1029	874
CLARENCE GARMAN	53 HO	26573	1075	862
MERVIN LEE ZEISET	50 HO	26413	1070	841
DAVID HORST	50 HO	25440	1076	798
LEON WEAVER	59 HO	24119	973	778
DUANE MARTIN	42 HO	25890	975	776
SCENIC RISE DAIRY	52 HO	24145	919	767
DELMAR BURKHOLDER	57 HO	23581	953	747
JOHN BURKHOLDER	45 HO	22955	898	730
BRANDON HOOVER	51 HO	21689	883	710
NEIL WEAVER	41 HO	22618	849	706
VINE VALLEY FARM	237 BS	20533	844	699
MARK HOOVER	58 HO	20402	795	626
ROLLEN N'S DAIRY	75 HO	19703	769	606
CLEASON MARTIN	34 XX	18245	762	585
MARTIN FOX	49 XX	16419	724	578
PHILIP MARTIN	30 HO	15639	622	508
RICHARD NOLT	44 JE	14190	659	501

HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000

DAVID MARTIN	HO	53	52
NATHANIEL MARTIN	HO	57	44
MERVIN LEE ZEISET	HO	75	50
JOHN BURKHOLDER	HO	88	45
RICHARD NOLT	JE	90	44
AMMON REIFF	HO	93	64
DANIEL K. MARTIN	HO	95	66
LEON WEAVER	HO	100	59
CLARENCE GARMAN	HO	100	53
MATTHEW ZEISET	HO	101	56
PHILIP MARTIN	HO	102	30
ROLLEN N'S DAIRY	HO	106	75
SCENIC RISE DAIRY	HO	113	52
DELMAR BURKHOLDER	HO	121	57
CLEASON MARTIN	XX	133	34
ZACH PIZZETTI	HO	166	72
BRANDON HOOVER	HO	189	51
DAVID HORST	HO	192	50

NEW JERSEY

Middlesex County

SPRING RUN DAIRY LLC.	65 XX	16335	720	561
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HERDS WITH A RHA SCC LESS THAN 200,000

SPRING RUN DAIRY LLC.	XX	136	65
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USDA Discrimination Financial Assistance Program

APPLY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BEFORE JANUARY 13TH!

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Discrimination Financial Assistance Program (DFAP) is a limited-time program that Congress authorized in Section 22007 of the Inflation Reduction Act in August 2022 for the purpose of providing financial assistance to ranchers, farmers, and forest landowners determined to have experienced discrimination in USDA lending programs prior to January 1, 2021.

KEEPSEAGLE PARTICIPANTS ARE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE BASED ON THE SAME CLAIM(S).

DEADLINES

January 13, 2024: DFAP Application Submission Deadline

DFAP APPLICATION AVAILABLE AT <https://22007apply.gov/>



Learn how YOU can get involved

indianag.org



'Christmas with the Cows' popular

By SHERRY BUNTING
Special for Farmshine

RONKS, Pa. -- Over 170 adults and children from five states -- Pennsylvania, West Virginia, New York, New Jersey, and Massachu-

setts -- attended the first 'Christmas with the Cows' event at the Melvin Stoltzfoos family's dairy farm near Ronks, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, last Friday evening, December 15th. The free event was promoted with local flyers and a 97 Milk facebook post as a chance

to visit a real working farm, see cows being milked and fed, and to ask questions, get some hot chocolate, cookies, and milk.

According to the folks at Sensenig's Feed Mill, who were on hand to help, the 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. event was a "great evening for all."

They report that many of the children "just loved petting Holly," a calf born 11 days prior. Children also received a farm coloring book.

Nearly all attendees spent time at the 97 Milk table asking questions and gathering information.

The highlight, however, was the simple pleasure of drinking chocolate milk and eating homemade cookies while watching the cows get milked in the tiestall barn.

Sensenig's Feed Mill purchased 97 Milk banners and signs, and volunteer coordinator Mark Leid from 97 Milk was on hand with the 97 Milk booth and materials.

The Stoltzfoos family opened their farm to visitors from near and far to see the way of life that is dairy -- caring for cows and producing milk. They provided this family-farm-style fellowship in the stable, with opportunities to simply enjoy and be curious.

How fitting to remind the public just 10 days before Christmas -- not just about where their milk comes from, but also the way the Lord Jesus entered this world as a baby, laying in a manger, in a stable, with cattle lowing as His lullaby.

We will circle back with the Stoltzfoos family in the New Year to hear more about it, and the plans we hear they are making to do it again next year!

Mark Leid, right, 97 Milk volunteer coordinator, shares information about whole milk with attendees at the event. Photos provided



Children like this little girl were all smiles and proud to show their 'I love whole milk' stickers from 97 Milk. Children also received farm coloring books, and loved petting the 11-day-old calf, Holly.



“GT” Glenn Thompson Congress

The Scott Sechler Family invites you to a reception in support of Congressman Glenn “GT” Thompson

Chairman, Agriculture Committee; Senior Member, Education and Labor Committee; Dean of the PA Congressional Delegation

Saturday, January 6, 2024 | 5 - 7 PM

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The Pennsylvania Farm Show Listening Session

Saturday, January 6, 2024

1 P.M. Delaware Room

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<i>Vanderhyde Dairy Inc.</i>	GEA Autorotor Automation Update
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<i>Steiner Farms</i>	Double 12 Parlor with Cooling
<i>Penn England LLC.</i>	Twin 40 HP Chiller
<i>Kreider Farms Dairy</i>	Twin 50 HP Chiller
<i>L.M. Bell & Sons</i>	2- R9500 GEA Robots
<i>Arbaugh Flowing Springs Inc.</i>	Double 12 Parlor with Cooling
<i>Douglas Walker</i>	Double 20 Front-end Update

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NMPF chief retiring with a big ‘thank you for all you do’

By **JIM MULHERN, NMPF President and CEO**

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Throughout my career, whether I was working on Capitol Hill or consulting for Fortune 500 companies, I found myself returning, in various ways, to dairy. And it was always because of the people.

Those who produce our food literally make life possible for all of us. But there’s something special about this dairy community. I’ve long felt dairy’s uniqueness is in its daily harvest — the ability to see in real time the fruits of your labor reflected in the health of your animals and the quality and quantity of milk they produce. It gives dairy a different character than other agricultural operations, producing people committed to nourishing our bodies with nutrient-rich milk and dairy products harvested through work that is hard and honest, and never lacking in integrity.

That’s what I will miss after more than four decades working in and near dairy. And that’s why the most important words I’ve been saying as I approach my final weeks at NMPF are “thank you” — to everyone from NMPF Chairman Randy Mooney and the many dairy-industry leaders who I’ve been fortunate to work with, to the farmers and staff who have supported and advanced our important work at NMPF.

And I also need to say, “I’m proud of this industry” for all the successes we’ve seen, and for how that success will help position everyone who cares about dairy for further gains to come — from the farmers and cooperatives I have represented to the entire industry.

I’ve had the opportunity to be part of nearly every major dairy policy debate since the early 1980s — from the establishment of the national dairy checkoff program in 1983, the very first dairy issue I worked on Capitol Hill, to the USDA Federal Milk Marketing Order modernization effort currently under way.

No achievements are ever static: The checkoff has become an incredibly vital instrument for our industry, and it continues to evolve, showing strong leadership in critical areas. Our Federal Order system is evolving as well — for the better, I predict, after our modernization proposal becomes the basis for a comprehensive USDA plan next year. The changes we are advocating, if approved, will strengthen the program’s ability to aid producers and improve orderly marketing of milk. And that change will happen because of the leadership, engagement, and hard



Jim Mulhern

work of all of NMPF’s dairy cooperative members.

Other examples of which we should all be proud — and confident in our future success — includes our sustainability journey. We recognized the climate issue as a looming challenge more than 15 years ago. We knew that our opponents would try to position dairy as part of the problem. But we vowed to be part of the solution. I was fortunate to be involved in those early efforts as the

checkoff program engaged key stakeholders, conducted a carbon Life Cycle Assessment of fluid milk — the first-ever on a U.S. agricultural product — and helped develop the science to establish our industry’s baseline.

From there, we have identified numerous opportunities for dairy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to climate improvements. NMPF has focused on programs and policies that provide voluntary incentives to assist farmers in these improvements and prevent onerous, costly regulations. We are seeing the fruits of these efforts, as federal programs are beginning to provide funding to enable on-farm technologies to mitigate emissions and help facilitate our U.S. dairy industry goal to be Net Zero by 2050. There is much yet to be done, but with the right policies and approaches I am fully confident we will achieve our goal even before then.

I am also proud of our work in the economic policy arena to help producers of all

sizes deal with the volatility inherent in commodity milk prices. The Dairy Margin Coverage program provides protection without stimulating increased milk production, and we have helped develop better and more effective risk management tools for larger farms through the USDA-supported Dairy Revenue Protection and LGM-Dairy programs. Collectively, these efforts provide the most comprehensive federal risk management suite our industry has ever had.

There are so many other issues I could talk about where we’ve made great progress, and a few — like immigration reform to help address our ag labor problem — where success remains elusive.

Despite these challenges, I know that the future of this industry is very bright. And that’s because of what I may be most proud of — how our industry works together to advance common goals.

By proactively engaging with a host of stakeholders — policymakers, customers, proprietary processors, consumer and public health groups, other agricultural organizations and even potential critics — we endeavor to advance our collective interests. I’m proud of the countless times we have engaged critical debates from a position of unity and strength.

When I accepted the role of NMPF president and CEO, I told the organization’s Board that my goal was simple: To strengthen the dairy cooperative and dairy producer community and help build a brighter future. Any success I’ve had has been because of great people — on the farm, in our marketing and processing operations, and in the policy and

turn to page 25

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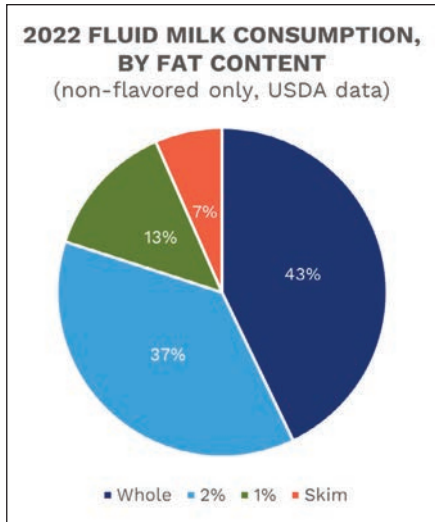
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NMPF now agrees that whole milk should be in our schools

ARLINGTON, Va. — Much has changed about milk consumption since 2012, the year that whole and 2 percent milk varieties were no longer allowed in federal school meal programs. Since then, the body of research supporting the benefits of fuller-fat milk has grown more robust, with research showing that dairy foods at higher fat levels are linked to outcomes such as lower total body mass in kids and lower childhood obesity. Milk is, simply put, a nutrition powerhouse.

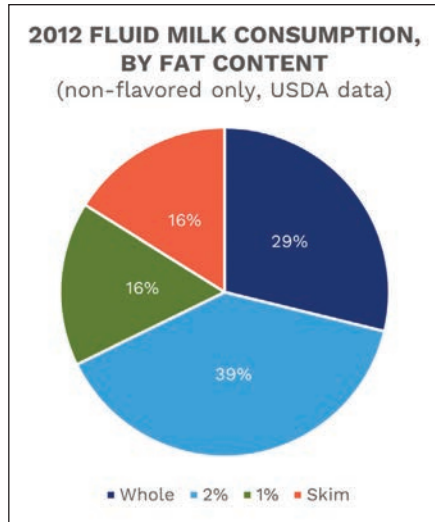
Concern over food waste has also grown, with food waste rising when kids are given meals they don't want to eat. Meanwhile, the gulf between what kids drink at home versus what they're served in schools — already gaping when the ban took effect — has only widened.

This is the percentage of U.S. fluid milk consumption, excluding flavored varieties, in 2012, and again in 2022. Even at the time the rules changed, keeping whole and 2 percent milk off school meal menus was out of step with what parents gave their own children,



with roughly 68 percent of consumption coming from those varieties.

That should have been an ominous sign for anyone who ever thought children would



flock to milk that didn't taste like what they had at home.

That disconnect is even worse today.

In 2022, whole and 2 percent milk accounted for roughly 80 percent of consump-

tion — and still, students don't have access to the same healthy choices they almost certainly have at home. This is a lost opportunity for high-quality, affordable nutrition that kids would gladly consume. And that's why, when the House of Representatives takes up the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act this week, lawmakers should take heed of the choices voters make at the grocery store — decisions that align with the latest scientific research on the benefits of dairy at all fat levels as well as consumer preference.

Having whole and 2 percent milk in school meals will nourish children and reduce food waste. And most importantly, it encourages kids to consume the nutrients they need. Taking the most popular varieties of milk out of meals was a questionable decision in 2012 — it's indefensible in 2023. NMPF has a call to action urging lawmakers to pass the bill — the bigger the margin, the more pressure on the Senate to make it law. Dairy farmers, as well as parents and educators everywhere, will be watching the House with great interest this week.

And when common sense wins, we know exactly what we'll drink at the celebration.

NMPF chief

from page 24

promotion organizations.

We produce a great product with a demand that's growing both domestically and internationally. We have the most efficient, productive, resilient and sustainable dairy industry in the world. And it's because of what you have done. Our industry is stronger because of our work together — and, under the leadership of my successor, Gregg Doud, our work is poised for greater success, as U.S.

dairy remains a critical part of the American diet, and increasingly, the world's.

My career journey has exceeded the wildest dreams of what I thought might be accomplished when I started in it many years ago. I'm proud of what we have accomplished together and gratified by the opportunity I've had to work with so many great people.

Thank you again, and Godspeed.

Reminder.

There will be no **FARMSHINE** published on December 29 to allow our staff to enjoy their families at Christmas. **We will resume our weekly schedule beginning January 5.** Thanks for reading!

CERTIFIED ORGANIC CATTLE WANTED

NICHOLAS MEAT LLC

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Nicholas Meat LLC is an approved Certified Organic Meat Processor. We are looking to purchase all your Certified Organic Cattle. Customers can deliver cattle to the plant Monday through Friday 7 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. Nicholas Meat LLC has also established several collection points.

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Vintage Sales Stables, Inc.

3451-3457 Lincoln Highway East, Paradise, PA 17562
Every Thursday from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Weikert Buying Station

721 Carrolls Tract Rd., Fairfield, PA 17320
Mondays from 9 A.M. to 4 P.M.

New N.W. Sales Company

2006 Mercer-New Wilmington Rd., New Wilmington, PA 16141
2nd and 4th Monday of each month.

Belleville Livestock Market

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

R&C Calf Farms, LLC

13071 Emerson Rd., Applecreek, OH 44606
Mon. -Thurs. 9 A.M. to 2 P.M. (Behind sale barn in Kidron)

Please bring a copy of your Organic Certificate with each shipment!

Please call the number below to inquire about these collection points or to schedule your sale of Certified Organic Cattle to Nicholas Meat, LLC.

NICHOLAS MEAT LLC

508 East Valley Road, Loganton, PA 17747
Please call Nicholas Meat LLC — 570-725-3511

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While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest... shall not cease. Gen 8:22
FORAGES • COVER CROPS • GRAINS

CDE DAIRY MARKETS & MANAGEMENT UPDATE

All prices — DEC. 20, 2023 — except where noted

School Milk, Milk Production: Last week was a great week for both our dairy industry and for school children across the country. That's because the U.S. House of Representatives passed the "Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act" with a resonating 330-99 bipartisan margin. This measure, which was led by Reps. GT Thompson and Kim Schrier, will increase the varieties of milk options schools could make available, adding whole milk and 2% milk back on the menu. The bill has now been sent to the Senate, which already has a companion bill with bipartisan support.

Over the past couple of months, I have had the opportunity to see firsthand how much school foodservice directors value the nutritional package dairy provides by participating in an ad hoc school milk committee organized by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. This committee was organized after both the Department of Education and the Department of Agriculture began hearing concerns expressed by school foodservice directors about a shortage of milk carton packaging. The shortage arose because a major provider of the carton packaging was adjusting their processing infrastructure, causing delays in fulfillment of carton order requests from processors nationwide. While cartons are not used as often in retail outlets and grocery stores as they once were, the carton is still the primary delivery method for milk served in schools. At one point, there were concerns that there would not be enough milk cartons available to fill school orders the next couple of months.

The committee included school foodservice directors from several major school districts (including ones within the Philadelphia area) across Pennsylvania, dietitians and other nutrition experts from the Pa. Department of Education, along with dairy processors and staff from the Pa. Department of Agriculture, Pa. Milk Marketing Board and Dairy Checkoff. We met several times to brainstorm ideas and take inventory of the resources available. A lot of creative suggestions were discussed, and in the end, it does look like solutions were identified to make sure school milk supply needs were met despite the short-term challenges on the packaging side.

While I was impressed with the committee's willingness to find solutions, what I found most enlightening was how much the school foodservice directors and nutritionists on the call recognized the need to keep milk in the schools.

Earlier this fall, USDA did approve a short-term waiver that allowed schools to replace milk on the school lunch tray with juice or alternative beverages, due to the packaging shortages. However, none of the school foodservice directors on the call wanted to do that because they knew how much more nutrition was available in milk than in juice or any other alternative beverage. They all agreed that we needed to do whatever it took to keep milk on that lunch tray.

Often in dairy, we become cynical and don't think that those outside our industry recognize the nutritional value that milk and dairy products provide. But being on that committee helped me realize how much those in the nutritional community and those making nutritional decisions on behalf of our children value what our products provide. It was both refreshing and encouraging to hear. With the "Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act" now passed through the U.S. House, it seems there is even more support and recognition for the nutritional value that milk and dairy products provide.

The latest U.S. Milk Production Report came out this week, showing production continues to be down year over year. Total milk production was down 0.6% to 18.08 billion pounds in November. The nation's dairy herd lost 44,000 cows since last November, dropping 10,000 from October's revised number, now at 9.36 million head. The supply shift east continues, with western states losing 56,000 head while the Midwest and East were up a collective 32,000 head. Pennsylvania's milk production was down 1.4%, with 1,000 fewer cows from a year ago. The biggest impact on Pennsylvania's production, though, came from milk production per cow, down 20 pounds for the month compared with a year ago.

With schools closing for the holiday season, this upcoming week can be very busy for milk balancing plants that take in significantly more milk due to less milk moving into Class I, and other dairy plants closing for an extended holiday. As we celebrate our blessings this holiday season, remember to celebrate all we have to be thankful for in this industry, including those who work long hours at the balancing plants to take in the extra milk over the holidays. As of last week, we can add the U.S. House's decision to recognize the importance of whole milk in schools to the list too.

JAYNE SEBRIGHT
Executive Director, CDE
717.346.0849
jsebright@centerfordairyexcellence.org



Markets

Kutztown Auction

December 16, 2023

Alfalfa	180-215
Mixed hay	120-260
Timothy	120
Grass	160-240
Straw	115-130

Middleburg Auction

December 19, 2023

Grass	90-250
Mixed hay	110-340
Straw	155-175
Ear corn	165

Morrison's Cove Auction

December 18, 2023

Mixed hay	130
Round bales	115-180
Large square bales	165-250

Wolgemuth Auction

December 18, 2023

Alfalfa	260-270
Mixed hay	190-395
Grass	195-215
Straw	150
Orchard	250
Corn fodder	100

Dewart Auction

December 18, 2023

Cattle: 183	
Slaughter cows:	
PrmWht 65-75% lean	82-89
Breakers 75-80% lean	78-86
Boners 80-85% lean	74-86
Lean 85-90% lean	61-78
Bulls	101-114

New Holland Auction

New Holland, Pa.
December 18, 2023

Cattle: 795	
Slaughter cattle:	
Steers:	
M/L-1-2	85-175
Calves: 372	
Feeder calves:	
#1 Hol bulls	320-390
#2 Hol bulls	250-330
#3 Hol bulls	100-185
Utility bulls	10-50
#1 Hol heifers	170-260
#2 Hol heifers	110-150

Middleburg Auction

Middleburg, Pa.
December 19, 2023

Cattle: 256	
Feeder cattle:	
Steers:	
M/L-1	140
M/L-2	125-145
Holstein steers:	
L-3	76-92
M-3	80
Heifers:	
M/L-1	120-150
M/L-2	74-130
Bulls:	
M/L-2	98-145
M-3	74
Holstein heifers:	
L-3	44-80

Wyalusing Livestock

Wyalusing, Pa.
December 18, 2023

Cattle:	
Canners	55-74
Boners	68-76
White cows	87-96
Calves:	
84 lbs.	2.20-3.80
96 lbs.	2.00-3.60
Heifer calves	1.00-1.80
Feeders:	
300-500 lbs.	92-1.65
501-700 lbs.	85-1.38
701-900 lbs.	65-1.55

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

CME DAILY FUTURES & OPTIONS TRADING — DEC. 20, 2023 AT THE CLOSE

	DEC-23	JAN-24	FEB-24	MAR-24	APR-24	MAY-24	JUN-24	JUL-24	AUG-24	SEP-24	OCT-24	NOV-24	TREND											
CLASS III MILK FUTURES (\$/CWT) vs. wk ago: Dec23 dn \$0.10, Jan-Mar24 dn \$0.75, Apr dn \$0.35, May-Sep dn \$0.03-0.10, Oct-Nov up \$0.05-0.20. 12-Month Avg. 17.51 ↓↓	16.13	15.60	15.74	16.44	17.35	17.94	18.20	18.39	18.47	18.55	18.67	18.63	↓↓											
CLASS IV MILK FUTURES (\$/CWT) vs. wk ago: Dec23-Mar24 up \$0.10-0.30, Apr dn \$0.07, May-Aug firm to \$0.15 higher, Sep-Nov24 steady to \$0.05 higher 12-Month Avg. 19.44 ↑↑	19.14	18.80	18.73	18.93	19.13	19.50	19.62	19.74	19.80	20.00	20.02	19.94	↑↑											
CLASS III MILK (\$/CWT) OPTIONS — PUTS — Daily Strike Price / Premium	16.25	0.13	15.50	0.19	15.75	0.50	16.50	0.66	17.25	0.74	18.00	0.96	18.25	1.02	18.50	1.13	18.50	1.14	18.50	1.15	18.75	1.31	18.50	1.27
MILK BASIS (\$/CWT) — 2017-22 PA BASIS AND AVG PA/NY/VT/OH — YOUR INDIVIDUAL BASIS WILL VARY (MAILBOX - CLASS 3)	PA	0.79	1.17	0.62	1.53	2.29	1.82	1.58	0.99	1.03	0.95	0.79	0.60											
*AVG	1.38	0.85	1.67	2.55	2.15	1.66	1.45	1.25	1.31	1.15	0.69	0.74												
DMC OFFICIAL GROSS MARGINS per cwt (USDA All-Milk, com, alfalfa & Ill. soybean, feed for ALL CLASSES of dairy cattle on farm) Updated with NEW prem. alfalfa feed cost	DMC	AUG-22	SEP-22	OCT-22	NOV-22	DEC-22	JAN-23	FEB-23	MAR-23	APR-23	MAY-23	JUN-23	JUL-23	AUG-23	SEP-23	*OCT-23								
		8.08	8.62	10.71	10.89	9.76	7.94	6.19	6.08	5.84	4.83	3.65	3.52	6.46	8.44	*9.44								

U.S. AVG PREMIUM ALFALFA & ALFALFA/GRASS HAY 20-22% CP - Source: USDA Monthly National Dairy Comprehensive Report

	AUG-22	SEP-22	OCT-22	NOV-22	DEC-22	JAN-23	FEB-23	MAR-23	APR-23	MAY-23	JUN-23	JUL-23	AUG-23	SEP-23	OCT-23	*NOV-23
	308.17	290.70	300.10	289.50	296.50	266.60	297.25	277.00	290.00	292.86	244.27	254.92	243.50	238.50	217.82	*240.41

U.S. AVG. BRED COWS & HEIFERS (3rd trimester) per head as reported by USDA Monthly National Dairy Comprehensive Report

	1407	1265	1310	1290	1300	1250	1352	1342	1330	1400	1559	1502	1540	1500	1741	*2108
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U.S. AVG. FRESH COWS per head as reported by USDA Monthly National Dairy Comprehensive Report

	1417	1384	1701	1526	1531	1436	1487	1493	1544	1469	1792	1615	1634	1643	1830	*1988
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CORN FUTURES (\$/BU)

	MAR-24	MAY-24	JUL-24	SEP-24	DEC-24	MAR-25	MAY-25	JUL-25	SEP-25	DEC-25	MAR-26	MAY-26	TREND
	4.726	4.852	4.946	4.964	5.032	5.136	5.190	5.192	5.052	5.036	5.140	5.186	↓↓

WEEK AGO: 4.794 4.924 5.016 5.016 5.076 5.176 5.230 5.234 5.086 5.072 5.232 5.202

SOYMEAL FUTURES (\$/TON)

	JAN-24	MAR-24	MAY-24	JUL-24	AUG-24	SEP-24	OCT-24	DEC-24	JAN-25	MAR-25	MAY-25	JUL-25	TREND
	403.2	392.4	388.7	389.3	386.5	382.7	378.4	380.1	379.5	376.9	375.7	376.7	↓↓

WEEK AGO: 402.2 393.6 392.6 393.8 390.8 386.6 381.5 383.1 382.2 379.0 378.4 377.2

* = NEW	PA MILK MARGIN & IOFC - LATEST PSU VALUES - *AUG. 2023			CME DAIRY CASH-SETTLED FUTURES (\$/LB) 12/20/23							SPOT CASH TREND		
	FEED COST (\$/CWT milk)	IOFC (\$/COW @ 75 lbs milk)	PA MILK MARGIN (\$/CWT milk)	DEC23	JAN24	FEB24	MAR24	APR24	MAY24	JUN24	12/20/23	12/20/23	
FEED = \$/CWT	*AUG (estimated) *8.84	*8.14	*14.78	NFDM	1.195	1.199	1.197	1.210	1.230	1.257	1.280	↓↓	1.1575
IOFC = \$/COW	PREV MO 9.16	6.18	13.05	WHEY	0.413	0.410	0.419	0.419	0.440	0.450	0.457	↑↑	0.3800
	YR AGO 9.38	12.61	219.65	BUTTER	2.610	2.500	2.510	2.530	2.550	2.560	2.570	↑↑	2.6050
	Covers ONLY lactating feed, based on 75 lb herd avg, Buff., NY soy price			CHEESE	1.634	1.593	1.599	1.671	1.753	1.803	1.836	↓↓	See Below

****USDA AUG-23 NEW * ALL-MILK BF * MAILBOX**

FL	\$22.80	3.80	\$21.32
APP	\$22.30	3.83	\$21.21
SE	\$22.20	3.77	\$20.31
NE	\$20.30	4.04	\$20.13
NY	\$20.50	3.98	\$19.76
PAeast	\$20.20	3.95	\$19.44
CA	\$19.50	4.03	\$19.29
OH	\$20.10	3.90	\$19.16
WVOR	\$21.60	4.11	\$19.07
U.S.	\$19.70	4.00	\$18.95
PAwestern PA only	\$18.88		
MN	\$19.40	4.19	\$18.88
IN	\$19.70	3.86	\$18.83
IL	\$19.50	3.94	\$18.74
MO	N/A	N/A	\$18.66
WI	\$19.20	3.97	\$18.58
TX	\$19.90	4.01	\$18.23
IA	\$19.20	4.13	\$18.15
MI	\$19.10	3.96	\$18.02
NEKS	\$18.00	4.02	\$17.38
NM	\$17.60	3.79	\$16.35

*** = NEW ANNOUNCED FEDERAL ORDER PRICES (\$/CWT)**

	CL I ADV	CL II	CL III	CL IV	ALL-MILK-U.S.	ALL-MILK-PA
	*18.48(JAN)	21.21(NOV)	17.15(NOV)	20.87(NOV)	21.60(OCT)↑↑	22.80(OCT)↑↑

MONTH AGO: 19.76 21.95 16.84 21.49 21.00 4.08F 21.50 4.01F

YEAR AGO: 22.58 24.67 21.01 23.30 25.90 4.14F 26.90 4.09F

CATTLE - DAIRY PURPOSES (\$/HD) NOV. 29, 2023, New Holland PA Receipts up slightly from a year ago, but over half (53%) were open and bred heifers selling generally steady compared to one month ago while 30% of receipts were fresh/milking cows and 9% springer heifers, with both of those classes selling \$300-500 higher than a month ago.

COWS:	Fresh	Bred	Springing	HEIFERS:	Bred	Springing	Beef x	Open:	300-600 lbs	Beef X	600-900 lbs	Beef X	900-1100 lbs	BULLS(800-1300lbs)
	2075	1600	2125		1650	2100		N/A	975		1350		1150	

MONTH PRIOR: 1590 1585 1625 1700 1690 625 750 1375 N/A

FED HOLSTEIN STEERS (\$/CWT LIVELINE)

	Choice & Prime	1250-1550 lbs light test	CURRENT	Beef X	WEEK AGO	YR AGO
			159.10	(ltd)	150.00	128.00

BULL CALVES: No. 1 & 2, 90-130 lbs

315.00	590.00	285.00	550.00	190.00
--------	--------	--------	--------	--------

70-85 lbs

365.00	635.00	350.00	500.00	150.00
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Located at 11715 Old Turnpike Rd., Mifflinburg, PA 17844

Monday, January 1, 2024
Starting 8 a.m.

Last year over 2200 pieces! Now selling with 4 rings at once.

This is only a partial early listing ~ Many items coming in daily

TRACTORS: JD 7220; 6430; 6210; 1025R; 2305; 2010; 855; 650; 4105; 1010; 4510; 5310; 50; **CASE/IH** 7140; CX100; 5250; 5130; 5140; 4210; 1690; 595; 2390; 766; Farmall 504; 450; M; H; **KIOTI** CK 30; **NH** 110; TC34DA; 4835; **WHITE** 6065; 2-85; 2-35; **KUBOTA** M8560; MX5200; 6100; L3301; 175; L4150; **DEUTZ** 100-06; **MF** 243; **MAHINDRA** 4025; lots more by sale day.

SKID LOADERS: **NH** Lx865; L218; 234; **BOBCAT** 642B; 650; JD 260; 317; **KUBOTA** SV65; **CASE** 1845C.

COMBINES: Gleaner R50; JD 6620; JD 6x head; JD 213 & 216 flex heads; JD 213 head; Case/IH 1020 flex head; JD 643 c head;

TRUCKS-TRAILERS: '73 IH s/a 475 bu. grain truck; '92 GMC Field Jenny sprayer truck; '85 Ford 9000 truck; '98 Chevy van; '94 GMC T/A dump; '98 Chevy 2500 pickup; Ford 150 4x4; '99 Dodge 3500; Load Trail 3000 lb. trailer; deck over; 40' flat; PJ 2019 gooseneck; 2019 RC enclosed 7x14; '94 Cornelius 16' stock; 1973 10,000 GVW shed trailer; dump trailer; lots of other trailers all sizes & condition;

CONSTRUCTION: JLG scissor lift; JD 350 crawler; Bobcat 811 backhoe; Oliver dozer; mini excavators;

GENERAL FARM MACHINERY: Tillage: Case/IH 145 roll over plows; JD 610 chisel plow; 5 shank V ripper; JD 210 disc; White 271 disc; all kinds and sizes of cultipackers, harrows, discs, rotary hoes;

Haying: NH FP230 chopper; NH mowers; 7230 discbine; 489; Case/IH 8340 mower; NH 492; Hesston 1340 discbine; NH 166 invertors; **Tubline TLR5000 wrapper;** elevators; all kinds of hay rakes: NH 56, 256, 258; IH 35; NH 1022 wheel rake; Vermeer 6x tedder; **BALERS:** Case/IH 8585 big square; Keveland 6716 round baler; NH 644 round; JD 582 silage special round baler; NH 68; 320; JD 24T; JD 337.

Forage: Gehl 1085 chopper; **NH 790 chopper;** Badger forage box; Gehl 980 & 970 forage wagons; Myers 3516 SU wagon; JD 3RN corn head; Badger BN2060 blower; 6000 ag bagger;

Planting: IH 5100 & 5300 drills; Haybuster 107C no till drill; JD 7000 corn planter; drills; Gregson HT1000 sprayer; sprayers; Lancaster fert spreader;

OTHERS: Stoltzius TV3WH16 lime spreader; Houle 6300 gal. tank spreader; NI manure spreader; Rissler 740 TMR mixer; Jaylor 1500 vertical mixer; NH 340 mixer wagon; Underferth grain cart; A&L 6150 grain cart; Kidd tub grinder; Nolts SL54 plastic layer; C/IH L630 loader; Kilbros & other gravity bin wagons; Knight 8018 spreader;

JD batwing; Gehl 95 grinder-mixer; lots of other rotary mowers all sizes; stalk choppers; Houle & Bodco manure pumps; Rissler 510 feed cart; snow plows; Farmco feeder wagon; snowblowers; all kinds of weights; tires; calf hutches; Gehl 7210 mixer wagon; New Mahindra frontend loaders;

Lawn & Garden: Kawasaki 4070 mule; Landmaster ATV; ExMark walk behind & zero turn mowers; mower; JD 214 lawn tractor; JD 185 L tractor; Kawasaki 4 wheeler; lots & lots of other mowers lawn & garden equipment etc.

VISIT INTERNET OR FACEBOOK FOR PICTURES & UPDATES WEEK OF SALE

Terms: Cash or good check day of Auction.

Auctioneer Note: This will be a large volume sale, limited small items, be on time. Accepting equipment up until Dec. 28th. Questions & consignments please call Hoover Tractor Inc. at (570) 966-3821 ask for Jerry or Allen Jr.

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Free pork & sauerkraut

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SPECIAL NEW YEAR DAIRY COW & HEIFER SALE

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 3RD • 10:30 A.M.

Mature fresh cows milking over 100 lbs. and with low SCC are in demand.

All sizes of quality Holstein heifers both open and bred are wanted.

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).

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:
 No sales Monday, Dec. 25th (Christmas Day)
 No dairy sale Wednesday, Dec. 27th
 Special sheep and goat sale Wed., Dec. 27th, starting 9:30 a.m.
All other sales will be conducted as scheduled!
 Including: New Years Day Sale. Selling horses at 10 a.m.; cattle, cows, calves at 8 a.m.; sheep and goats at 9 a.m.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Thank you for your business. Thank you for letting us market your livestock. You are appreciated! - David Kolb, N.H.S.S.

Sale Managed By

New Holland Sales Stables, Inc.

Barn 717-354-4341 Fax 717-355-0706 • David Kolb, Mgr. 61L

1515 Kepner Hill Rd.
Muncy, PA 17756
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WESTFALIA-SURGE auto-tandem milking parlor. 8 stalls, bolt-down installation. Variable speed vacuum pump, plate cooler, complete, good condition. Everything for \$8000. 570-809-6567. (1/12)

4' X 6' COW MATS. GOOD mat for the money and easy to install. \$80 each, including hardware. Call 717-304-6684.

USED MILK TANKS - 375 gal. Milkeeper; 600 gal. Mueller M; 800 gal. Mueller

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4 Dairy Cows

CERT. ORGANIC COWS. 570-250-1725. (2/24)

A2A2 HOLSTEIN COWS, just fresh and milking well. 1st, 2nd and 3rd lactation. SCC under 100,000. 814-221-6079. (1/5)

LAND O'LAKES MILK base 4000 lbs. 717-380-0346.

LAND O'LAKES milk base for sale. 814-360-8842.

BUYING AND SELLING dairy herds, heifers and service bulls. Aaron Coons, 717-816-4118.

JUST FRESH, 1ST LACTATION Reg. Holstein cows. Good quality, well grown animals. 3-4 generally avail. each month. 570-297-5118.

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5 Heifers & Calves

2 A2A2 JERSEY GUERNSEY cross heifer calves. \$85 each. 717-529-1233, ext. 1.

5 REG. HOLSTEIN HEIFERS Top of the line breeding. Starting to calve February 1st. 419-302-3148. (1/5)

6 Dairy Bulls

REG., GENOMICALLY tested Ayrshire bulls. Two July Blackjacks from WDE winning milking yr/ig Palmyra Ringer B Rayna VG 87. June Ringer son from Steel Fire Burdette Gracen EX 91 Res AA Sr 2 2021. Palmyra Farm, Hagerstown, Md. Call Mary at 301-471-0726 or Evan at 301-514-4213.

REG. HOLSTEIN BULL, Burket-Falls Fitzy, 4/11/21, Mr. D Diamondback son, very nice heifer calves. Also, 1 year old angus bull, very nice, calm. Contact me at 570-960-2344 for more information. (1/12)

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.

HOLSTEIN BULLS ready for free stalls and younger. High genomic tested bulls from contract matings and high type cow families. 610-932-6062. Call between 8:00-8:30 a.m.

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

SEMEN TANK, HOLDS nitrogen well. Breeding kit, semen content included. \$850. Sold cows. Berks Co., Pa. Ask for Allen. 484-256-6108. (1/19)

HELSEL-HILL HAS expanded. Call or text Keith Helsel for No Bull sires, Blondin sires, Resolution-Red, Furnace Hill Zas Endure, and more. 814-515-5455.

91HO5821 MARTIN-DALE Jonah Joseph AAA 426. Sire stack is one of the best in the Holstein industry. Jonah x Mr America x Adolph x

- Christiana Area -

PUBLIC AUCTION

90 Hd. Holstein Herd - 3 Draft Horses
Tractor - TMR Mixer - Farm Machinery
Silage - Baleage - Semen Tank - Pumping Station

Tuesday, January 9 @ 9:00 a.m.

Location: 241 Williams Run Rd., Christiana, PA 17509
- Located between Smyrna Rd. & Gap Rd. -



Zamboni dau. / 1st lact. / 84 lbs.



Doc dau./2nd lact./92 lbs./ bred Oct./ Pkd. over 100 lbs.



Mogul dau./Fr. Oct./ 3rd lac./milking 128 lbs.



AC 7010



NEW Pequea Tedder



Cloverdale 420

- HERD INFO -

90 Hd. Holstein closed herd tie stall dispersal; 46 cows. 44 heifers; (20) 1st lact., (9) 2nd, balance 3rd & up; RHA 24,981. Current Avg. 82 lb. Nov. test. 4.1 BF, 3.2 Pro., 60,000 SCC, 5 hd. milking 102 to 128 lbs; 12 fresh since Nov. - Dec.; 3 due in Jan. 6 in Feb., 5 in March, 2 in April; AI sired & bred w/ Select Sires. Majority bred with Holstein. Sired by Beemer, Pety, Superior, Doc, Yoder & more; **Feed program by Nate Galbreath/4-Ward AG**; On TMR feeding program; Hooves trimmed in Sept., a few touched up in Dec.; **On DHIA program.** Life history sheets ringside; **Zero 3 quartered cows**; Heifers: 44 hd. 3 due in Jan., 5 in Feb., 3 in April. Balance baby calves to shortbred. Sired by Hancock, Phantom & others; **Cattle can be kept until Wednesday to accommodate trucking.**

Auctioneer Note: If you're in need of milk or good genetics - you'll want to attend this auction. The barn is full of good uddered cows! This may be one of the best herds selling this spring. Definitely of the better herds we've sold. Contact Dave Stoltzfus @ 717-768-7526 w/questions OR Alvin Lapp @ 717-768-4689 to order buy cows or heifers.

- SILAGE - BALEAGE -

150 ton silage - kernel processed - in ag bag; 250 md. bales Alfalfa baleage - 4x4 - in-line wrapped. Analysis sale day; (40) 1st, (80) 2nd, (76) 3rd, (66) 4th cutting; Possibly some triticale; **Approx. 70 ton corn silage (processed).**



Tandem Rake Set

SELLING FOR CHRIS & MARY KING, 717-799-2253

'81 Allis Chalmers 7010 tractor w/6 cyl. Cummins w/turbo, 540-1000 PTO, dual hyd., 3 pt., belting wheels - good cond.; Conestoga 1100 gal. spreader w/Honda - good cond.; JD 3970 harvester w/long table & goose-neck; Tonutti 4 star 14' tedder w/13HP Honda; '14 Conestoga MPT 8' portable manure pump w/hyd.; 25' fill pipe; 5" firemans hose (approx. 1000'); Pequea 110 spreader; 16' flat wagon; Mc 1 row cultivator; 6 1/2' scraper blade w/fork pockets; Lazy susan lath holder; Antique dirt scoop; **MVE Millennium 2000 Semen tank & Angus Semen**; 4 Westfalia milkers; (2) 80 lb. buckets; Tank washer w/air motor; 300 lb. Sputnik w/SS chassis (ex. cond.); 2 silage carts; Misc. gates; 1 wagon load misc. items.

SELLING FOR THE BEILERS, 717-471-5499

NH 258 rake w/hyd. unit & 9HP Honda - rebuilt & new paint!; NH 256 rake - solid; Pequea HT4102 4 star 18' tedder w/hyd. fold & 18HP Vanguard eng. on BZ mount - Brand New!; NH 456 mower w/9' bar & 4 cyl. Wisc. eng. w/hyd.; NH455 mower w/7' bar, new 13HP Honda & new knives; **NI grnd. drive spreader - rebuilt**; 7 1/2' x 16' wagon w/new bed on Grove gear w/new 6 lug 8" whls.; 7 1/2' x 18' wagon on Farmbilt gear w/new 8" whls.; 8' x 18' wagon w/sideboards on Pequea gear w/8" whls.; 2 row 6' flail shredder; New 2 prong S/L attach bale spear; New 66" S/L bucket; 300 gal. fuel/gas tank w/pump (cleaned).

- AUCTION INFO. -

Join us for this farm auction. You'll find some TOP Holstein cows & heifers, a few good work horses and some nice farm machinery, Alfalfa baleage & more. Auction begins at 9:00 w/1 or 2 wagon loads misc. smalls followed by baleage. Farm Equip. approx. 11:00 followed by horses & TMR mixer. Dairy Herd at 12:00 - in heated tent. Auction Co. and sellers are not responsible for accidents. Auction day announcements take precedence over all advertising. Payment terms: cash, approved check or credit card w/ 3% fee. Food Stand. **We accept absentee & phone bids. Please call Tim before day of sale to place bids.**

- HORSES -

Billy: 15 yr., 16.2H, black Percheron gelding. Can't hitch wrong. Upagainst. Lots of snap. **Brownie**: 6 yr., 16.3H bay gelding. Jockey horse. Good worker. All day. **Chief**: 11 yr., 17.2H black Percheron gelding. Lines either side. Good solid worker.

- FARM MACHINERY -

New Holland hydraulic driven tandem rake package: includes NH 252 tandem hitch w/258 rake w/new Joe's Machinery hyd. unit w/13HP Honda and buyer will have choice of 260 or 258 for 2nd rake (v.g. cond.); **NH 258 grnd. drive rake (good cond.); NH 258 hyd. drive rake - rebuilt - has hyd. unit w/9 HP Honda**; Beiler round bale wagon w/web & dump & hyd. unit w/new 6 1/2 HP Honda.

- TMR MIXER - MILKERS - DAIRY RELATED -

'17 Cloverdale 420 stationary TMR mixer w/new knives, digi. scales & 40" x 7' discharge conveyor - good cond.; 4 milkers w/Westfalia pulsators - just serviced and 300E claw & 80 lb. buckets; (1) 90 & (1) 80 lb. bucket; SS pumping station w/100' hose & air motor; Silage & feed carts; Litter carrier track; Misc. dairy supplies.

Auction for:
Enos J. & Miriam Rose Zook and others
717-553-3965



Tim Weaver AUCTION SERVICE
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Special Dairy Sale

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

THURS., DEC. 28 • 11:15 A.M.

Approx. 100 head sell

We will be selling many good, young, fresh cows and heifers from overstocked herds and heifer raisers with good udders and lots of milk!

Sample of cattle selling:

- Reg. 2 yr. Red & White Acme, fresh November, milking 80 lbs. Dam NC. Next 13 dams VG or EX.
- Reg. 3 yr. Warrior-Red, fresh 11-1, 106 lbs. 4.4 3.1. Low SCC. She is fancy! Dam EX-92, made 28,190 4.1 1152. 2nd dam EX-90, made 28,870 3.8 1093. Next 4 dams VG-85, EX-95, EX-95, EX-90.
- 4 Reg. fresh 2 yrs. from one 30,000 lb. herd. The right kind!
- 5 top, young, fresh cows from one 27,000 lbs. herd.
- 4-5 young, fresh cows from one 24,000 lb. herd.
- 3 yr. Cheers, fresh October, 140 lbs.
- Reg. 2 yr. Jersey, fresh.
- 2 yr. Guernsey, fresh.
- Red & White Holstein bull born 5-12-22. Sire Jordy-Red son. 2nd dam EX-90 6-05 32,940 909 1011. 3rd dam Durham Perfume EX-94 3E 7-11 365 37,680 4.1 1551 3.2 1208.

*Plus many more good, young cows with lots of milk.
If you need good, young replacements,
we should have the cow you need.*

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

The Fishers thank all customers for their business in 2023 and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Leader x Aerostar. Dam of Joseph Josephine 3E, 91 pts. Just finished her record as a nine year old. 26,772 milk, 4.8 butterfat, 3.7 protein. Use this sire to improve rump, feet and legs and overall strength. Have questions, call Martin-Dale Holsteins 717-445-6548. Need semen call Stohlaven Genetics 717-672-1838.

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 conception. Early daughters are milking great & look better than their dams. Priced at \$14 for 20 units or more. Joe Wivell 717-471-5260.

9 Equipment & Machinery

PATZ BEDDING chopper. 13 hp Honda engine. Asking \$800. Call Dave at 845-321-7673, 9am-7pm.

WEAVERLINE 430 CART with charger, \$1000; Badger electric roller mill in good condition, \$1500. 717-320-3330. (1/12)

NEW HOLLAND 195 manure spreader, excellent condition, \$20,500. New Holland 258 hay rake, very good condition, \$3000. 570-419-8981. (1/5)

CLAAS FORAGE harvester 2012 Jaguar 930 494-series, 4WD, 410HP, 2660 cutter hrs. KP Inspected with warranty. Call for details. \$138,000 or \$155,000 with 6-row head. 717-400-7917. (12/22)

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FOR RENT: E RISSLER 330 trailer TMR mixer, \$30/day; IH Rissler 510 TMR cart, \$10/day. Delivery avail. Myerstown, Pa. 484-793-2179.

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10 Feeds

1ST, 2ND & 4TH ALFALFA tested, 3x4x8' Chinook dried straw. Delivered or FOB. 610-767-2409, heidelhol-lowfarm.com.

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FASTRACK - Improve milk production, increase feed utilization and improve herd health with Fastrack direct fed microbials. Contact Karl at 740-504-2859 or email klbss@columbus.rr.com.

11 Hay

CERT. ORGANIC 1ST, 2ND and 3rd cutting balage in tubes; 4x5 dry round bales in tubes; 4x5 dry round bales heifer dry cow hay. Delivery available. 570-250-1725.

GRASS HAY, SMALL BALES horse hay, also large square bales horse hay. Can deliver. 717-203-9679. (1/5)

ALFALFA BALEAGE, 4x4 wrapped round bales, \$60 each. Also, small square bales alfalfa or grass, various prices. Richard Trinca, 814-349-8010. (12/29)

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12 Straw & Bedding

CHOPPED STRAW in 3x3x6 bales. Good for bedding or TMR mixers. Available now.

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HIGH QUALITY SAWDUST available for delivery. Great sawdust for dairy and beef cattle. Call 301-334-6212 for delivery range, pricing and availability.

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HAY OR STRAW-any type or quality. Call 717-253-6049 for pricing.

14 Tractors

NH TS100A, C/H/A, 4WD, PS, deluxe cab, 4 remotes, loader valve, nice, \$32,500 OBO; NH TS115A c/h/a, 4WD, PS, runs good, \$26,500 OBO. 223-624-6265. (1/5)

15 Vehicles & Trailers

TRAILER PARTS, TOWING accessories, trailer hitches, and cushion hitches. UPS to your door. Weaver Distributing. 800-Weaver-D. Save!

16 Fencing

TIMELESS FENCING - The post is the insulator. Versatile design is self-insulating and easy to install for sheep, goats, cattle & horses. Allegheny Meadows. 814-285-1541.

17 Silos

USED A.O. SMITH model 1250 Slurry Pump with agitation nozzle and load out line. 717-463-9731.

SILO DEMOLITION. Contact Beiler Silos. Call 570-745-3574.

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19 Real Estate

10.2 ACRE ORGANIC vegetable farm rent/partnership for 2024 in Lock Haven, Pa. Guaranteed sale. Looking for an experienced person with flat beans, thin clay peppers, small bell peppers, red meat peppers. 917-865-7658. (1/27)

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Call by Wednesday, Dec. 27 - (814) 364-1796 (leave message) or fax to (814) 364-1426.
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