

## Farmers, distillers, retailers gather to talk ethanol

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell has brought three major links in the ethanol chain together for the first time. Nov. 9 meeting was called to initiate a working dialogue between corn producers, officials of an ethanol distillery and representatives from farm cooperatives.

"Gasohol is an appealing alternative energy source," said Hallowell. "The three major components in making gasohol a reality are increased corn production, expanded fermentation facilities and successful marketing practices. No one

group can provide all three.

"By bringing together farmers, an ethanol distiller and energy retailers we hope to lay the foundation for ethanol production in Pennsylvania.

"We discussed the ability of farmers to deliver the necessary amounts of corn and the willingness of farm cooperatives to pump gasohol. We also explored the possibility of potential markets for distiller's dry grains and distiller's wet grains, a byproduct of the ethanol process.

"Gov. Thornburgh has urged us to push hard for the swift and prudent use of everything at our disposal in

our search for alternative energy sources, from sunshine to moonshine," Hallowell said.

Dan Cook, Director of the Department of Agriculture's Office of Planning, Research and Economic Development said that Pennsylvania farmers could grow the necessary amounts of corn.

"Currently Pennsylvania farmers produce 115 to 120 million bushels of corn annually. Over 200 million bushels of corn could be produced in Pennsylvania if the demand for corn existed.

"One bushel of corn with today's technology produces 2.6 gallons of ethanol," Cook said.

In the production of ethanol, a byproduct known as distiller's grain, is produced that can be used on the farm as feed or exported for human or animal consumption. Distiller's dry grains have an excellent market value but need to be dried, an expensive process requiring huge amounts of energy.

However, distiller's wet grains could be trucked to one-half million cattle in Southeast Pennsylvania as an economical alternative.

The production of ethanol from corn only uses the starches and does not reduce the protein value of the byproduct.

The farm cooperatives

which would market the gasohol on the retail level, were enthused about using ethanol as a gasoline extender.

Gasohol would increase the amount of fuel available by ten percent despite the current allocation system. Many gasoline retailers in Pennsylvania are only receiving 75 per cent of last year's allocation.

Representatives of an ethanol distillery, Publicker Industries, Inc., a Philadelphia based firm that currently sells ethanol and is the only commercial producer of ethanol in the state, said that the public acceptance of gasohol by consumers is just short of fantastic.

Tests results show that gasohol provides a three to five per cent increase in

mileage, improves performance and reduces engine knocking, dirt buildup and friction. Ethanol increases the octane rating of gasoline by an average of three points.

The Publicker representatives said this would like to expand their ethanol distillery but are hesitant about committing the money unless they can be assured of adequate supplies of cost effective fermentable raw products, such as corn, and an agreement with gasoline retailers to market the gasohol.

There was discussion of the possibilities of an exchange between farmers and Publicker. Farmers would supply corn in return for ethanol and distiller's wet grains.

## York DHIA members honor top milkers

BY PATRICIA GREEK  
Staff Correspondent

YORK — Rodney Smyser, T. Edwin Johnson, and Leonard Greek are the new Directors of the York County DHIA. They were elected at the Annual Banquet held Wednesday night at Avalong Restaurant in York.

The 818 pounds of fat produced on 19,980 pounds of milk by David Stewart's cows was enough to earn the Delta Farmer the High-Herd for Fat Award.

Lynn Wolf's cows also worked overtime on their Abbottstown farm producing

20,320 pounds of milk and 719 pounds of fat. This won them the High-Herd for Milk in the county.

The Most Improvement Between 400 & 500 pounds award was won by Donald Wilson, of New Park, whose average came up 59 pounds of fat.

The Most Improvement Over 500 pounds was awarded to Leonard Greek, Delta, whose cows came up 108 pounds of fat bringing him into the 600-pound Class.

Mollie, the well-known matron of George Knight's

herd, Airville, again took the High Lifetime Production Award with 290,670 pounds of milk and 10,746 pounds of fat to date.

Her stablemate, Ella, brought another award to Knight by having the High 305 Day Lactation in the county with 34,107 pounds of milk and 1364 pounds of fat.

Herds in the 600-Pound Class or above for fat are as follows: 800-Pound Class - David Stewart, Delta.

In the 700-Pound Class: Sinking Springs Farm, York; Lynn Wolf, Abbottstown; Smyser's

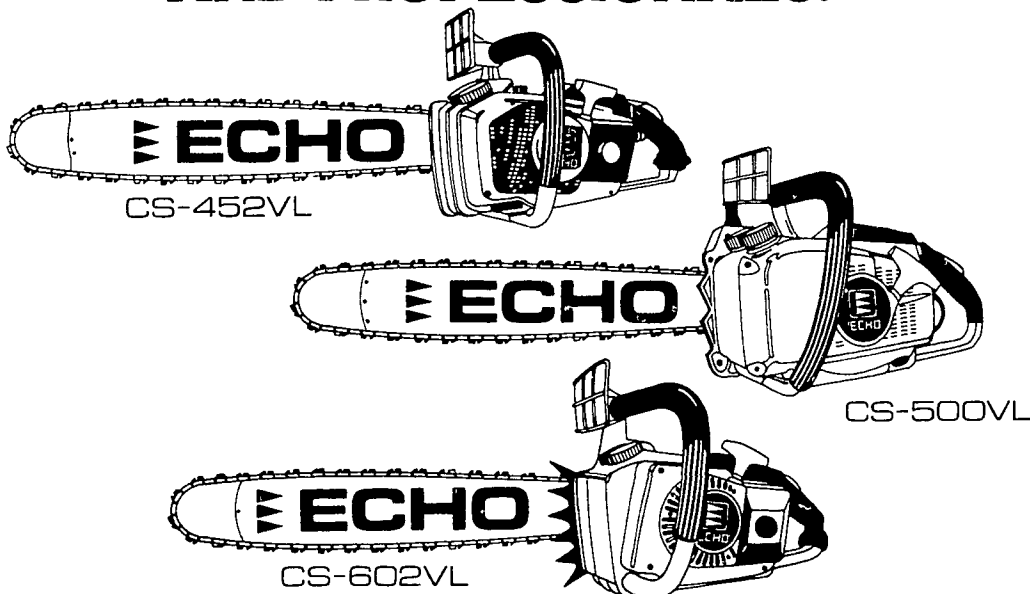
Richlawn Farm, York; and Beshore Farms, New Cumberland.

In the 600-Pound Class were Robert R. Stewart, Airville; Thomas A. Boyer, York; Wayne B. Mummert, East Berlin; Galawn Farms, Dover; and Leonard W. Greek, Delta.

Also in this class are Guy A. Leader and Sons, New Freedom; Paul R. King, Delta; H. Fetrow and Sons, York; Earl Fuhrman, Hanover; Hidden Springs Farm, Dover; Avalong Farms Holsteins, York; and Dennis J. Myers, Glen Rock.

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## Pa. to sue EPA for relaxing air standards

HARRISBURG - The department of Environmental Resources has notified Ohio, the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Co. and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that Pennsylvania will file a lawsuit to enforce Ohio's sulfur dioxide emission standards.

The lawsuit stems from EPA's announced intention to relax emission standard's at Cleveland Electric's East Lake and Avon Lake plants, both of which are located near Cleveland.

The emission standard for those two coal-burning plants was set in a court-approved decision that settled six years of litigation over sulfur dioxide emission standards in Ohio.

But before those standards took effect, Cleveland Electric applied to EPA for an exemption. The federal agency responded by proposing a new standard that would not require any sulfur dioxide emission reductions at the two plants.

Both Pennsylvania and New York have objected to these proposed relaxations on ground that neither the company nor EPA considered the effects of this air pollution on downwind states.

And while EPA considers these objections, it has proposed to suspend enforcement of any sulfur dioxide emission standards at the two plants.

Pennsylvania has told EPA that such a suspension would be illegal.

The existing emission standard requires the Avon Lake plant to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions to 1.15 pounds per million BTU and the East Lake plant to reduce to 1.43 pounds per million BTU.

Currently, the two plants are emitting sulfur dioxide at four to five times the allowed rate.

DER is required to notify EPA, Ohio and Cleveland Electric under the Clean Air Act that it intends to take an enforcement action.

The lawsuit will be the latest in a series of actions

by DER designed to make sure neighboring, upwind states control their fair share of air pollution.

DER Secretary Clifford L. Jones has met with the state's congressional delegation to discuss the problem and both Jones and Lt. Gov. William Scranton discussed the issue with EPA Administrator Douglas Costle.

"EPA has sufficient regulatory authority to undertake interstate regulation of air pollution, but has not exercised its authority because it has treated each air pollutant category and each power plant source in isolation and in a narrow geographical area," Jones told the congressional delegation.

DER has argued that sulfur dioxide emissions from power plants in the Midwest are the sources of acid rain and sulfate particulates measured in Pennsylvania and has offered a solution to the problem.

"While the Pennsylvania standard may not be the precise emission limitation that should be set everywhere, application of an emission ceiling which can be easily attained through coal washing or by the use of low sulfur coal will prevent the problem from getting worse and provide room for growth and increased coal utilization," Jones said.

And the department has already filed a lawsuit against EPA seeking to reverse federally approved air pollution control relaxations in West Virginia.

