

PFA annual meeting

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upcoming Pennsylvania milk promotion referendum.

He said the measure "needs some teeth" so an agriculture secretary must follow the 20-representative board's recommendations.

He said it was likely the original voting period slated for February would be delayed until kinks can be ironed out.

Delegates also heard from former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz at the Tuesday evening awards banquet.

In the annual election, incumbent PFA President Eugene Thompson was re-elected to his third term of office.

Eight district director slots had to be filled. All eight incumbents were re-elected, including John Ackerman, Northampton County; Christian Wolff, Columbia County; Richard Barto, Lycoming County; Mrs. Carolyn Rutter, York County; Kenneth Loht, Mifflin County; Theodore Hoover, Cambria County; Jack Waddell, Crawford County; and Boyd Wolff, Westmoreland County.

One new Womens Committee member was appointed Mrs. Nyna Lucas, R2 Belfonte, Centre County, was named to represent District 6.

Throughout the three day meeting, PFA delegates caucused and voted on policy items ranging from farm partnerships to film pornography.

Here's what delegates said:

Dairy resolutions

We recommend that any promotion referendum that is approved be administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture with an advisory board of farmers, and not provide for farmer ask-outs, and that the referendum provided

funds be used for generic advertising only and under no circumstances be used for brand advertising."

Also in dairy-related measures they said, "We recommend that the milk support program remain at 80 percent of parity. No concessions in percentage of parity be made without a comparable reduction in imports, and CCC purchases remain at five percent or more of production. Parity should be reduced to discourage over-production."

They seek to amend present American Farm Bureau policy to include support for development of a new pricing structure and advertising program for milk which will reflect the nutritional value of the components of milk and an increase in the minimum solids-not-fat standards for milks.

School taxes

They approved a school tax policy.

Delegates recommended "that a combination of locally-levied flat rate earned income tax and property tax for the purpose of school finance be implemented and the rate and proportion be at the discretion of local taxing authorities."

"The provisions of Act 319 and 515 should be continued, and nuisance taxes levied under Act 515 be eliminated," they said.

Land use

PFA wants "The Federal and State Government to show restraint in funding projects (public or private) which will result in the conversion of any prime, unique, or locally important agricultural land to non-agriculturally related uses."

Egg pricing

Egg interests within PFA



Pennsylvania Farmers' Association President Eugene Thompson told members the nation has used democracy to get itself into its current difficulties and needs to use democracy to get itself

out. During his address Thompson cited tax reform and land use planning as key areas for farmer activities.

backed a resolution that "Urner-Barry varied pricing of eggs be replaced by a regional pricing council consisting of egg producers, processors, and buyers in the region."

Water policy

Water rights and streams also were subjects of policy decisions. PFA delegates asked "that PFA support the right of the individual for the use of water in connection with other property rights, including the management of that water for reasonable and beneficial use."

They also recommended PFA oppose the designation of streams, rivers, lakes, and wilderness areas for wild and scenic uses.

Toxic waste

In a lengthy resolution on toxic waste disposal, delegates recommended that PFA not oppose proper sites for disposal of toxic waste when the sites are approved by DER and Agriculture Department representatives and receive all needed permits.

They asked that state-owned land be considered for



Members of the Lancaster County delegation to the PFA convention this week included, from right, Elvin Brenneman, Amos Funk, Jim Hess, Jim Groff, and County President Earl Newcomer seated behind.

waste disposal before private property, and that top priority be given to developing safer methods of toxic waste disposal.

Biggs wins PFA service award

HERSHEY — The Pennsylvania Farmers' Association presents its Distinguished Service Award Tuesday evening to a former leader, Gerald A. Biggs of Fulton County who served as PFA president for 16 years.

Biggs served as PFA president from 1953 to 1969. Under his leadership PFA grew from a fledgling

organization to over 10,000 members strong. He oversaw the start of many PFA member services including the Farm Management and Business Analysis Service, the Insurance Service, the Pennsylvania Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Association and the Safemark Supply Company. He also encouraged vigorous

county farmers' association programs.

In addition to honoring Biggs, PFA county units were cited during the awards banquet for outstanding achievements in PFA program areas. All Star awards were presented for seven categories: membership, advisory councils, women's activities, public affairs, services,

information and public relations, and agricultural marketing activities.

The Berks County Farmers' Association led by president John Kooker, Jr. of Blandon was the only county to receive an All-Star award for every program. Three county associations — Dauphin, Lancaster and Union — received six All Star awards.



Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hollowell recounted the legislative activity of the past 12 months at the opening luncheon held Monday. Theme of the PFA meeting was "Dawn of a New Decade." Looking on is PFA President Eugene Thompson.

Butz tells PFA members agriculture needs incentives

HERSHEY — Former U.S. Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz told leaders of the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association that the world's number one problem is how to feed 75 percent more people in the next 25 years.

Butz, who served as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture from 1971-76, addressed the Awards Banquet Tuesday evening during the 30th Annual Meeting of PFA.

Butz told the convention gathering that farmers can rise to the task of feeding a larger populace only if agricultural research continues to get priority and only if individual freedom and real incentives are

provided for farmers who are willing to strive for them.

Said Butz, "Too few national governments have made the commitment to assure that changes in techniques would provide real incentives to the individual farmer."

"Too many nations interfere substantially with trade in farm products."

"Too many nations, including our own, have an underlying, but powerful, urge to pursue a cheap food policy - making it difficult for the man on the land to reap the reward for the



Earl Butz

innovations he makes."

Butz also told the banquet audience, "Even though the cost of food is a widespread source of complaint, the plain truth is that we Americans buy more food for a smaller share of our working day than ever before, and for less than any other nation."

Butz said Americans enjoy this affluence, which they take for granted, because of the efficient family farm system. Today one farm worker produces enough food for himself and some sixty other people, Butz said.

The American family farm represents an

entrepreneurship at its best. It is here that we find a direct relationship between personal profit (or at least the hope of profit) and investment, innovation, risk-taking, and just plain old

fashioned hard work and enterprise," Butz told the PFA convention.

Butz is presently Dean Emeritus of Agriculture at Purdue University.

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