

Lancaster Farming



Industry men of the Year were honored at the Thursday evening Pennsylvania Poultry Federation Fund Raising Banquet, held at Lancaster's Host Farm. A record crowd filled the convention center's two ballrooms to capacity. Posing for the camera are, from left, John Hoffman, master of ceremonies and executive director of the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation and wife, Ruth; Vernon Leininger, Egg Industryman and wife Allegra; Earl Gingrich, Broiler Industryman and sister Anna Wagner; Paul Konhaus, Turkey Industryman and wife Margaret.

Poultry producers step out 1700 strong

BY SHEILA MILLER

LANCASTER — For seven straight years, the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation hosted a record crowd at its annual fund raising banquet, and this year is no exception. Over 1700 poultry producers and industry people turned out for Banquet Number 8, exceeding the attendance of previous years, according to John Hoffman, the Federation's executive director.

"When we started the fund raising event, we had 300 people gather at the Penn Harris Hotel in Harrisburg," Hoffman remembered. "We've been coming to the Host Farm in Lancaster for the past five years, and always seem to fill more rooms than before."

Hoffman explained the funds raised at the banquet are the source of income for the state association. It provides an organized voice for the poultry industry and protects producers' interests. Money goes to research, disease control, scholarships, and youth activities.

Co-chairing this year's successful program were Bob Graybill, of Pennfield Corporation; Jay Greider, of Greider

Farms, Inc.; and Dale M. Weaver, of Victor F. Weaver, Inc.

On hand for the festivities were special industry men, recognized previously for their contributions to the poultry business.

Lancaster County's Vernon Leininger, R2 Denver, is the Egg Industryman of the Year. He has 90,000 layers at his Ko-Ka-Le-Ko Egg Ranch. He has been honored in the Federation's Gold Feather Club, which recognizes exceptional sales people.

Leininger has been raising chickens for the past 20 years. Assisting him with the farm, which also produces steers, hogs, grain, and alfalfa, are sons David and Michael.

The Broiler Industryman of the Year is Earl Gingrich, of Hummelstown. Gingrich was employed by Pennfield Corporation for 20 years in the broiler division. He explained he worked with breeder chickens, producing the company's own hatching eggs for broiler chicks.

Now retired, Gingrich lives on a 60 acre farm where he grows

(Turn to Page A26)

FmHA denies Eastern's \$20 million loan request

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — The application of Eastern Milk Producers Cooperative Association for a \$20 million loan guarantee has been denied by the Farmers Home Administration.

John D. Robertson, acting New York State Director for FmHA, said the notification of denial was received from the national offices in Washington, D.C. on March 23.

Notification was given to Eastern by the state office on April 9.

Robertson said the denial from the national office was based on various credit factors.

The acting state director explained that four main reasons

were given in the denial. These include:

- Lack of equity position by Eastern
- Operating losses.
- Lack of personal or corporate guarantees

-And concern that Eastern would not be able to meet its milk supply contract with Leprino Foods, which is supposed to be the source of funds to repay the loan.

Michael Donovan, General Manager of Eastern, in a prepared news release from Eastern, questioned the accuracy of FmHA's analysis of the application, saying that its equity position has improved steadily during the two and one-half years

it has taken for a decision to be made on the loan application.

Donovan further claimed that (Turn to Page A12)

Legislative roundup

Grieco named House Ag Chairman

BY CURT HARLER

HARRISBURG — Joseph V. Grieco, representative from Lycoming and Northumberland Counties, this week was named the new House Agriculture Committee Chairman.

Grieco replaces Roy W. Wilt, the Greenville legislator who stepped

down as House Ag Committee Chairman. Wilt won a special election in late March for a state senate seat.

Grieco said Thursday he decided to accept the position after "a heart-to-heart talk" with House Majority Leader Matthew J. Ryan.

The new Ag Chairman is a fifth-term Republican from Jersey Shore. He has been a member of the House Agriculture Committee during all nine of the years he has served the 84th District.

Although not a farm boy, Grieco has close ties to farming. He worked with his father and brothers in the wholesale fruit and vegetable business.

The family purchased strawberries, cabbage, lettuce, onions and other produce and had daily contact with farmers, Grieco said.

In addition, Grieco has a long-term background in ag legislation. He was one of three senior house members considered to be on the inside track for the position vacated by Wilt.

Grieco told Lancaster Farming his first priority as Ag Chairman will be to preserve farmland for future years.

He said his next priority will be to modify current inheritance tax laws to be certain they are written (Turn to Page A24)

Sheila Miller to edit 'Farming'

LITITZ — Sheila M. Miller has been appointed editor of Lancaster Farming, announces Robert G. Campbell, publisher.

Miller, who has served as associate editor on the staff for the past year and a half, is replacing E. Curtis Harler who submitted his resignation April 6.

Miller is a 1974 graduate of Penn State's College of Agriculture, where she majored in General Agriculture. After graduation, she was employed by the USDA Soil Conservation Service for five years, working in Adams, Berks, and Lackawanna counties.

While a student at Penn State, Miller was active in the Block and Bridle Club and served as corresponding secretary. She is a member of the Phi Kappa Phi and Gamma Sigma Delta honor societies. She was a member of the 1973 Meats Judging Team.

Miller is the daughter of Vernon and Mildred Miller of R1 Hershey, and is married to Michael L. Miller, the son of Charles and

Kathaleen Miller, R5 Gettysburg. Farming has been an important part of Miller's life, having grown



Sheila Miller

up on her parents' farm where she learned the basics of raising beef cattle and crops. These childhood lessons and the skills learned at Penn State and with USDA are being applied on the farm recently purchased by Sheila and her husband, where they raise purebred Polled Hereford cattle and Irish Setters.

One of her favorite hobbies is horseback riding and driving, and her horses have traveled with her on every move since college. One of her hayburners, Charlie, is a Quarter Horse she's shared with her older sister, Verna Miller Case, (now a college professor in Davidson, North Carolina) since Miller was eleven years old. Stable mates to the aging gelding are a Morgan-Arabian gelding and a Standardbred mare.

By accepting the editor's position, Miller has become the first woman to assume these duties in the history of Lancaster Farming.

News and features

Conservation field day, A21; Pa. Grange Week, A28; Food system study, A34; Egg income, B5; Apple festival, B6; Berks beekeeper, C18; Poultry house planning, C32; Custom rates, C40; State farm leases average \$60, D11.

Regular columns

Editorials, A10; Farm calendar, A12; Farm talk, B8; Have you heard? C11; Joyce Bupp's column, C13; Ida's notebook, C14; Ask the VMD, C24; Dairy pipeline, D5; Sheila's shorts, D10, The Milk Check, D12.

Home and Youth

Berks FFA, A32; Agri-broadcasting network, C2; Home on the range, C6; Farm women societies, C8; Pa. Honey Queen, C10; Kid's Korner, C12; 4-H news, C16; Ladies Day Out house tour, C21; Kennard-Dale FFA, C42; Youth livestock judging, C43.

Dairy reports

MCMP elects officers, A31; Franklin DHIA, B2; Adams DHIA, C25; Upper Susquehanna DHIA, C26; Huntingdon DHIA, C29; Perry DHIA, C30; Lancaster DHIA, D2; York DHIA, D6; Montgomery DHIA, D8.