

Poultry problems

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flowers and plants, and practices photography.

Paul Konhaus, Mechanicsburg, the Turkey Industryman of the Year, also was honored. The owner of Konhaus Farm, a retail marketing business, Konhaus raises 50,000 turkeys for his three stores where he employs over 200 people.

Konhaus farms 700 acres in Cumberland County, and has been raising turkeys for about 45 years. He was named Master Farmer in 1960.

Member and staff of the Pennsylvania General Assembly also were recognized. They included: Senator Edward Helfrick, Majority Chairman of the Senate Agricultural Committee; Senator Patrick Stapleton, Minority Chairman of the Senate Agricultural Committee; Representative Samuel Hayes, Jr., House Majority Leader; Representative Noah Wenger, Vice Chairman of House Agricultural Committee; Neal Buss and William Sonntag, Senate Agricultural Committee; and Jack Grey and Warren Lamm, House Agricultural Committee.

Also taking part in the evening's festivities was the president of United Egg Producers, Al Pope. Mixing business with pleasure, Pope discussed some of the major issues the egg cooperatives are working on.

Pope said UEP is constantly working on the nutrition issue created by the cholesterol controversy. And improving the grading standards is another key issue. But the hottest issue currently is animal welfare, he said.

The UEP president explained the organization has recently appointed a director of animal welfare, becoming the first commodity group to take this type of action.

"UEP is more interested in animal welfare than its advocates," Pope stated. He listed three steps UEP has taken on the matter:

— an industry code of good management procedures has been developed;

— it explains the industry situation, describing beak trimming, force molt, and that chickens have better mental health when kept in cages than on open range; and

— it has developed a certification program for producers.

"I'm excited about our animal welfare policy," he exclaimed. "We're doing a good job — 98 percent of the producers are already doing what's planned. But it's an emotional issue for producers — they tend to get upset."

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United Egg Producers president Al Pope chats with Vicki Wass, the Pennsylvania Egg Promotion Specialist, with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture during the Federation's fund raiser.

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