

# PFA sets policy on animal rights, water rights

BY SHEILA MILLER

HERSHEY — Farmers from across the state converged on Chocolate Town USA once again for the 31st Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association. The three-day event kicked off Sunday afternoon at the Convention Center and wrapped up early Wednesday afternoon with an 'overtime' delegate session.

The annual meeting is a time of work, fun, comradeship, and sharing experiences from back home on the farm for the men and women of PFA.

This week county delegates voted on nearly 150 proposed resolutions — some rejected, some accepted, and some amended and passed. These delegates also left the convention with awards to share with the members back home, along with advice and information provided by keynote speakers like Governor Dick Thornburgh, American Farm Bureau Federation Vice President Cecil Miller, commodity adviser David Sauder, and experts on the animal rights issues.

Some of the key resolutions adopted by the delegates were:

- \* That PFA appoint a study committee to investigate beginning farmer programs in other states and then developing such a program suitable to Pennsylvania;
- \* That PFA should take an active part in educating farmers as to the pros and cons of the new advertising program for milk;

- \* That because Pennsylvania's 1981-82 budget contains \$800,000 for cost of operation and enforcement of Pennsylvania's Dog Law and because Pennsylvania dog license fees have not been increased since 1923, that the license fees be increased \$1 for both male and female and that the increased fees be placed in a fund for indemnity payment for livestock and poultry destroyed or damaged by dogs;

- \* That, for Bang's disease, cattle dealers be treated the same as farmers on quarantine disinfection program; that action be taken by the Agriculture Department for violation—licensing revoked and no member of the family be allowed to continue in the same business;

- \* That all female calves be vaccinated between 4 through 8 months of age against brucellosis and that the Agriculture Department furnish free vaccine.

- \* That interstate health charts and regulations controlling interstate movement of cattle be standardized for all states;

- \* That PFA endorse and support the Pennsylvania Milk Promotion Referendum and that it be held as soon as possible;

- \* That the importance of agriculture be taught in the elementary grades;

- \* That PFA support reasonable regulation to safeguard environmental quality during oil and gas drilling and development; that leasing terms remain within private enterprise; and that landowners carefully study and negotiate lease terms before signing an oil or gas lease;

- \* That fire companies and other emergency personnel serving farming communities include in their training sessions on the proper handling of farm related accidents, such as farm fires, farm equipment emergencies, barn fires, silo fires, and manure pit and silo gas;

- \* That, as an incentive to any farmers who would enter into a deed restriction binding them to retain their farmland in agriculture for 25 years, legislation be drafted to provide reduced rate of interest loans to those who meet certain eligibility requirements;

- \* That there be no minimum acreage for an ag area;

- \* That PFA support the identification of market hogs through auctions with the use of slap tattoos and metal ear tags for feeder pigs;

- \* That poultry and egg buyers should come under and be included in the Packers and Stockyard activities;

- \* That PFA support legislation to place responsibility for the loss of water or water damages by operations, such as drilling, or logging, mining, construction, and to guarantee just and adequate compensation to farmers for damages suffered due to said practices or activity;

- \* That each state lease an area of state-owned land to a private hazardous waste company for disposal of such waste;

- \* That family farms with partnerships should not have to pay FICA tax for children under 21 years of age;

- \* That the occupational tax be eliminated and replaced with a per capita tax or earned income tax;

- \* That PFA oppose a business use and occupancy tax;

- \* That daylight savings time remain as it is;

- \* That all imported agricultural products be subject to the same inspection, sanitary, quality, labeling, and residue standards and upgrading a product as domestic products. Any products that do not meet these standards should not be permitted entry.

- \* That when an embargo is imposed against any country, then all exportable goods should be included;

- \* That the American Farm Bureau vigorously support moving



Hard at work, PFA delegates from Lancaster, Lebanon, and other counties around the Commonwealth debate and move on

resolutions the farm organization will support throughout the coming year. Much time was spent on animal and water rights issues.

CCC stocks to the highest bidder on the world market;

- \* That PFA support the reclassification of casein imports so that they are considered as food rather than chemicals and so that they will come under the auspices of and be subject to the minimum requirements established by the Department of Agriculture and support the establishment of quotas on casein imports based on historical averages;

- \* That a law be passed that would spell out the standards for various natural milk product cheeses. Any product similar in appearance, odor or taste must meet these standards or not be allowed to use the name cheese;

- \* That the current annual registration of commercial brands and grades of fertilizer be reevaluated; that the current penalty factor relating to the nutrient deficiency be reevaluated; that deficiency payments should not be more than the dollar value of the deficiency; that the product must maintain at least 97 percent of total commercial value; that a civil penalty for flagrant violators of the Fertilizer Act be imposed up to a maximum of \$10,000 on the third or subsequent violation.

Two resolutions that commanded considerable time and debate by the delegates involved the issues of animal and water rights.

In their animal rights policy, PFA members agreed that PFA, AFBF and county associations need to work to educate the public about accepted animal husbandry practices and the benefits of these practices to consumers. They voted to oppose any legislation that would regulate these husbandry practices, and agreed to oppose any committee formed to study and make recommendations on these practices.

The PFA delegates also spelled out that research projects conducted by the Department of Agriculture be done to produce facts that determine if stress affects animal health. Their policy calls for no public money to be used to advance the animal welfare cause and that if humane education is taught in schools, it should include an explanation of the practices and values of accepted animal husbandry techniques.

On the water rights issues, PFA voted to support the right of the individual for the use of water in connection with property rights, including the management of water for reasonable and beneficial use. They also support the concept of empowering the state to formulate a plan for implementation during drought or

other water shortage emergencies, for management of water use by indentifying priorities of water use and that management actions be taken at various stages of such an emergency.

PFA has called for agriculture to be given a high priority in case of an emergency situation and supports the encouragement of conservation measures. The farm organization also supports the property owner's right to groundwater, that individuals should be able to sell their right to water in order to efficiently allocate water within a basin, and that individuals be able to develop water resources only to the point they impact on other uses within the groundwater basin.

The farm organization's new policies seem to fall in line with the advice the members received from Governor Dick Thornburgh on Monday during a luncheon address.

"Demand no less of state government than you demand of yourselves," said Thornburgh, adding that government should follow "the examples of hard work

and sound financial management that always have characterized the successful family farm. . . let the General Assembly know you're tired of watching government spend more than it has, at the expense of others."

The governor called for prompt legislative action on budget cuts and a trimming of the state's burgeoning welfare rolls.

State Agriculture Secretary Penrose Hallowell addressed the serious farm community problem — litter, during the PFA meeting on Monday. He cited the negative impact littering has on the rural beauty along with the problems it can cause by contaminating feed, injuring livestock, of causing other accidents.

Hallowell commended the PFA Women's Committee for encouraging 54 county Farmers' Associations to participate in the 'cleanup' program and pledged PDA's support in education efforts.

"We all have a stake in keeping Pennsylvania clean," he said, "whether we're farmers, business people or consumers."

## PFA elections

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Governor's Seasonal Farm Worker Committee.

Eckel is a graduate of Keystone Junior College, LaPlume, and he holds a B.A. degree in political science from Dickinson College, Carlisle.

Back on the farm, Eckel, along with father Fred and brother Doug, milks a herd of 90 Holsteins and farms more than 800 acres in Lackawanna and Wyoming counties. In the vegetable and cash grain business, the Eckels produce 400 acres of corn and 280 acres of tomatoes, pumpkins, and other truck crops.

They sell over 800 tons of high moisture corn each year and ship more than 100,000 boxes of tomatoes to markets as distant as Puerto Rico. Their pumpkins make more than 400 kids from Boston to Baltimore happy each year as they carve them into funny, scary, unique Jack-O-Lanterns.

Gayman operates a 170-acre dairy farm near Chambersburg. He is a member of Eastern Milk Producers Cooperative and has served as president of the Boiling Springs local and secretary of District 15. He was named Eastern's Member of the Year in 1978.

Other farm-related organizations to which Gayman has pledged his time and support include the Pennsylvania Council

of Farm Organizations and D.E.R.'s Water Resources Policy Advisory Committee. He is a charter member of the Franklin County Young Farmer Association.

Along with his farm organization service, Gayman also has been active in his community, serving on the Chambersburg Area School Board since 1963 and serving as school board president for 5 years.

Gayman is married to the former Evelyn Wingert, Chambersburg. They have two son and two daughters.

Berks County's Roy Christman, R1 Hamburg, and Snyder County's Charles Benner, R3 Middleburg were elected to the PFA Board of Directors, replacing Arthur Hershey of Cochranville and Russell Hummel of Selmsgrove whose tenure did not allow reelection. Directors who were reelected included: James Cappucci, Mehoopany; Frederick Tiffany, Athens; Horace Waybright, Gettysburg; Joseph Johns, Davidville; Mrs. Richard Rhoades, Emlenton; Elder Vogel, Rochester; and Fred Slezak, New Alexandria.

On the Women's Committee, Nellie Crawford, Port Royal, Juniata County continues as president and will be assisted by Joyce Sankey, R2 Clearfield, who was elected vice president. Sankey replaces Mrs. Richard Rhoades.

## PFA presents Star, Service awards

HERSHEY — Three counties received the highest honors awarded by the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association during their Tuesday evening banquet, held here at the Convention Center.

Berks, Dauphin and Union counties were given the Star status for having achieved their goals in seven major categories during the past year — membership gain, advisory councils, women's activities, public affairs, business services, information and public relations, and agricultural marketing activities. Accepting for the respective counties were John Koch, Berks president; Bruce Corsnitz, Dauphin president; and David Dietrich, Union president.

Counties receiving star awards

for six program areas were: Lancaster, Centre, Clearfield, Montour, Adams, Mifflin, Crawford and Erie.

Five star counties were: York, Washington, and Franklin; four star awards went to Bucks, Lehigh, Somerset, Clinton, Northumberland, Cumberland, Snyder, Clarion, Mercer, Schuylkill/Carbon, and Wayne; three star awards went to: Chester/Delaware, Blair, Armstrong, and Beaver/Lawrence; two star counties were: Indiana, Lycoming, McKean/Potter, Juniata, Perry, Bradford/Sullivan and Northampton/Monroe; the one star counties included: Lebanon, Montgomery, Bedford, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Westmoreland.

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