

## PIK

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to the soil and build soil tilth and texture.

Hatley cautioned farmers against over-spending for seed and fertilizer when establishing the stand, since they won't be able to sell the crop due to regulations of the PIK program. He recommends controlling weed growth and using enough seed to close the canopy of the crop to prevent runoff.

"If the previous crop was corn," Hatley said, "the presence of Atrazine residues would prevent short-term legumes and grasses from germinating." In such a case he recommends planting sorghum or sudan grass, although this crop isn't common in the county.

Spotty growth of weeds, like Johnsongrass, should be controlled at this time, Hatley said, in order to prepare the land for cultivation in the future.

Tom Johnston, Lancaster

County Soil Conservation Service Director, advised that farmers plant a mixed crop of grass and legume. The grass would be less likely to allow erosion than a solid legume crop because of its thicker root system.

"Soil tests of the land in the PIK program are practical at this time," Johnston said. "They allow the farmer to improve his soils over a longer period of time."

After August 31, PIK designated land can be grazed. For farmers wishing to establish a permanent pasture, he recommends they consult the SCS office to plan the change.

Johnston said that this is a good time to update the conservation plan and implement various conservation measures. Contouring, sod waterways, terraces and drainage systems are a few alternatives open to farmers with erosion problems.

## NE dairy

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reduced dairy income on various segments of the industry.

Milton Hallberg, ag economist at Penn State addressed the conference on Wednesday on the effect of reduced dairy income on the Northeast. Hallberg is part of research team that recently investigated the subject by analyzing 1850 actual farms in New York, Pennsylvania and Vermont. He presented the results of the study and their implications.

He reported the cash cost of producing a hundred weight of milk ranged from \$5 to \$15, signifying that there is room for efficiency improvements on some of our dairy farms.

"Interestingly enough a number of the smaller dairy farmers have little or no debt," said Hallberg. "The smaller farmer is not necessarily in more financial difficulty than is his larger counterpart under sharply reduced milk prices."

"Those farmers using good management techniques and modern technology, located on the more productive soils, large enough to take full advantage of scale economies, and surrounded by other dairy farmers on good roads will have a competitive advantage," Hallberg indicated.

"The smaller farms at some distance from other farms and at the margin of bulk tank routes will face stiff challenges."

Hallberg voiced concern over a dwindling infrastructure to serve dairy farmers, as a result of dairy farms becoming more disperse. Transportation costs will increase causing a trend to fewer processing plants. He said that processing plants that have expanded to handle the current surplus, may be financially stressed when there is a reduced supply because they have generated too much excess capacity.

Keynote speaker, Kenneth Farrell, of Resources for the Future, spoke on the role of im-

## Pittard gets Pennfield post

LANCASTER — John S. Pittard has been appointed processing superintendent for Pennfield Farms Poultry, a division of Pennfield Corporation. The poultry plant, located in Fredericksburg, processes and packs fresh poultry products for distribution in Pennsylvania, New York, and other major metropolitan areas.

A native of Atlanta, Ga., Pittard received his B.S. in Poultry Science from the University of Georgia. He was formerly employed as first processing superintendent at Spring Valley Foods, Heflin, Ala., where he began as cutup supervisor, and later was appointed department manager of receiving, picking, and eviscerating.

He and his wife Myra, and son Jason, reside in Mt. Aenta.



John Pittard

## Ag safety

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that it would have to compete with other ag programs for funding. States would have to recut the funding pie and establish priorities for various items, including safety.

How that may affect ag safety specifically would depend on each state and how much importance is placed on that effort.

And what does ag safety include? Let's look at Pennsylvania as an example.

Here are some of the efforts under the direction of Dennis Murphy, Penn State Extension Safety Specialist, that are familiar to farmers:

There's the safety demonstrations and displays staged each year at Ag Progress.

And, the county programs held

in conjunction with Farmers' Associations or Extension, including tractor, machinery and toxic gas safety.

Farm accident rescue has been a particular effort in recent years. This program familiarizes volunteer firemen and ambulance personnel with farm equipment, including shutting it off and extricating trapped victims.

Murphy also collects farm accident data and maintains the only statewide figures on types and locations of farm accidents.

In other states, these and other similar programs are included in the safety programs.

And, these could be the programs that may feel the effects of the planned change in federal funding for agriculture.—DA



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