

Pennsylvanians celebrate with a feast

BY KIMBERLY HERR

CAMP HILL — Chicken wing dings, breaded mushrooms, cheese and crackers, catfish spread - that was just the beginning.

Cheese baked potatoes, pork chops, roast beef, creamed onions, baked corn, green beans and rolls were just a few of the items on the main course table, which was adjacent to the dessert table, laden with pie, ice cream, apple dumplings and apricots.

Ice cold milk and red and white wine and coffee complimented the dinner. All of the food, with the exception of the coffee were homegrown Pennsylvania products.

Why all the food?

It was a night to rejoice in Pennsylvania products, a night to be proud to have a hand in producing the bounty that fed more than 400 people in attendance.

It was the Keystone Cornucopia, sponsored by the Pennsylvania State Council of Farm Organizations, which is made up of more than 60 farm and agribusiness associations and groups.

Held at the Penn Harris Motor Inn, Camp Hill, Monday, the dinner and business meeting, held earlier in the day, provided an opportunity for agricultural leaders from across the state to meet and discuss issues of concern to all. Also in attendance were about 30 members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and a few Pennsylvania senators. Several commodity queens were also on hand.

"It is a great evening when we can pay tribute to our Pennsylvania agriculture," Pa. Secretary of Agriculture Penrose Hallowell said. "This evening pays

tribute to the strength and diversity of our agriculture."

John Hoffman, president of the Council, reminded the audience that it takes 23 million workers to move agriculture products in the economy. He also thanked everyone for the kindness and help shown during the Avian influenza crisis.

And then it was time for "Ohio's Farmer Philosopher" Henry Schriver, the entertainment for the evening.

A farmer, 4-H leader, father of 11 children and former member of the Ohio General Assembly, Schriver has made more than 2,000 speeches all across America.

"About the only thing I can say about the meal is Wow! Don't you wish you had four stomachs like a cow?" exclaimed Schriver, who entertained the crowd by speaking almost entirely in verse.

He talked of everything from farming to families to being a neighbor. He even talked about being a grandfather.

"A grandfather, there's a pleasant task, give them everything they ask - then send them home," he laughed.

On a more serious note, Schriver said, "I'm proud of what we as farmers have been able to do. I'm proud to be one of those farmers that can feed himself and, right here in America, another 60 people."

He also offered some advice, "Do your work in season, have time to be a neighbor and have some family fun. Worry never drove a cloud away and worry never made a sunny day."

In closing, Schriver reminded his audience to continue to have faith, hope and love. "Those are the abiding things," he said.



Penrose Hallowell, Pa. Secretary of Agriculture, chats with some guests during the Keystone Cornucopia Monday night at the Penn Harris Motor Inn, Camp Hill, Dauphin County. "Everything we ate tonight has grown in Pennsylvania," Hallowell said.



With all the food on hand at Monday's banquet, it was hard to decide what to eat. One of the favorites seemed to be the roast beef one of the cooks is carving above.



Mr. and Mrs. John Hoffman enjoy the entertaining message of Henry Schriver, "Ohio's Farmer Philosopher."



Ice cream, apricots, pie and apple dumplings were featured on the dessert table. Above, guests select their choice for dessert.