

Lancaster Farming

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PFU hears Minnesota educator

BY KIMBERLY HERR

HERSHEY The changes, both positive and negative, that are taking place in agriculture, and how they are affecting the family farm were the topic of two speeches heard Wednesday during the second day of the Pennsylvania Farmers Union 12th Annual Convention.

Agriculture is still number one in Pennsylvania, said Jon Wefald, chandellor, Minnesota State University System. Agriculture is still important in Pennsylvania

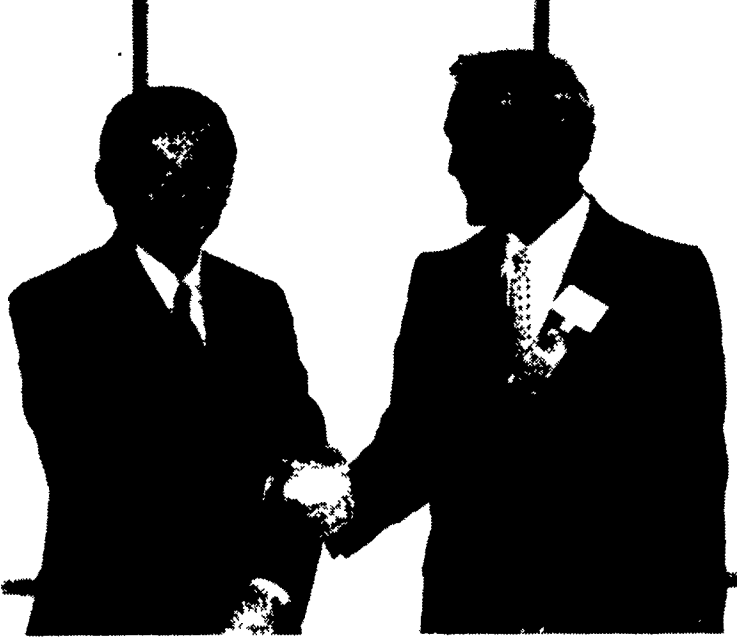
But what has happened between 1953 and 1984? Wefald asked his audience. American agriculture has gone down hill, my friends.

Wefald went on to explain that from 1942 to 1952, American farmers received a fair price based on a very simple 90 percent loan program.

Did America go bankrupt? Was this a burden on the working people? Did it contribute to world inflation? Wefald asked. On the contrary, he said, America paid for World War II, had full production, full employment and a balanced budget.

After a rousing round of applause at the mention of former president Harry Truman's name, Wefald said, "Farmers from 1946 to 1953 paid cash. Why? Because they were making a decent and fair living.

In conclusion Wefald recommended a long-term farm



The speaker for the evening banquet Wednesday at the Pennsylvania Farmers Union Convention was Jon Wefald, Chandellor, Minnesota State University System, at left. With him is James Brown, president of PFU.

program, one with a fair and equitable loan policy.

I personally believe that America will be better off if you do well," Wefald told his audience.

Wefald spoke following the evening banquet. Prior to that the 160 members had participated in a

policy-making discussion, which involved everything from a long-term farm policy to weed control to fines for property damage resulting from littering and driving through fields.

The PFU members and guests (Turn to Page A38)

Visit the Keystone Pork Congress

HARRISBURG — All Commonwealth roads on Thursday for Pa. Pork Producers will lead to the Penn Harris Motor Inn for the Sixth Annual Keystone Pork Congress.

Once again, the day-long session will combine a program of marketing and production topics with the opportunity to visit the many interesting commercial exhibits of major suppliers to the pork industry.

A complete program of the day's

activities, along with many of the program participants, can be found on Page D12 of today's Lancaster Farming. A separate program of activities will also be conducted for the Porkettes.

The day-long program will conclude with the annual Congress Banquet at 6 p.m. Featured speaker is Walt Buescher, of Pigeon Forge, Tn.

Watch next week's Lancaster Farming for highlights of the Congress

Pa. fiscal news cites Avian, PRV

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania agriculture received some good fiscal news this week out of the State Capital

Governor Thornburgh introduced his proposed state budget for the coming year, which featured a couple of new ag items, including \$500,000 for poultry research and promotion in continuing response to Avian flu and \$100,000 to get a new Ag Development Commission started to promote Commonwealth agriculture in a number of different ways.

And in separate fiscal action, the Governor signed the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, previously passed by the State House and Senate, which includes \$2 million to help poultry farmers hit with Avian and \$213,250 in matching funds for a cooperative state-federal pilot project on pseudorabies.

The \$500,000 set aside in the budget for the poultry research and promotion is designed to help the state's poultry industry in its recovery from the Avian disaster, particularly in the area of promotion to recapture lost markets and to expand existing markets for Commonwealth poultry products.

The \$100,000 for the new Ag Development Commission is designed to be seed money to get the proposed group started in its promotion of Commonwealth agriculture. The proposed commission is eyed as a combination public-private sector group, including farm and agribusiness

members who would oversee special agricultural promotion programs.

Such ag promotion programs might fall in three separate areas.

—Promotion to attract new ag business to the state and help existing agribusiness to expand.

(Turn to Page A38)

Diversification signups outlined

BY TRISH WILLIAMS

LANCASTER — Statistics released this week by the U.S. Department of Agriculture on the sign-up for the Milk Diversification Program were well below previous estimates by the department

According to a federal ASCS official in Washington, D.C., 12.4 percent of the dairyman in the United States have contracted to reduce their milk production. Only six percent of the dairymen in Pennsylvania signed up for the program.

The sign-up period for the Milk Diversification Program ended Jan. 31st. Conducted by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, the program will pay contracted producers \$10 per hundredweight for reducing milk production by five to 30 percent

After all the figures were tallied, 37,530 out of the country's 303,580

(Turn to Page A22)

Young Farmers gather to honor their top members

Outstanding YF under 30



John and Gwen Hartman, of Somerset County.

BY DICK ANGLESTEIN

HARRISBURG — The Berlin Brothersvalley Chapter was in the limelight of the Pennsylvania Young Farmer Convention this week providing both the Outstanding Young Farmers in the Under 30 and Over 30 categories

The Pa. Outstanding Young Farmers who were selected from regional contestants from throughout the state include

Under 30 — John and Gwen Hartman, who operate a dairy farm in Somerset County that includes an 80-Holstein milking string

Over 30 — Leon and Dorothy Jane Paul, who operate a 377-acre dairy farm, also in Somerset County

The two dairy farming couples from Somerset County were among the top award winners honored by the Pa. Young Farmers Thursday at their convention at the Host Inn, Harrisburg. Among other winners

Community Service — Co-winners in this category were Donald and Carol Sanders and Russell and Phyllis Hummel, of the Mifflinburg and Selinsgrove

(Turn to Page A22)

Outstanding YF over 30



Leon and Dorothy Jane Paul, of Somerset County.