

# PFU

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also heard from Samuel H. Smith, Dean of the Penn State College of Agriculture.

"The movement of U.S. agriculture into the high technology sector has been in full swing for nearly a decade," Smith said. "Farmers and agri-business people within Pennsylvania who have adjusted their operations to take advantage of this new technology are in an excellent position to prosper and grow. Those who have not made these adjustments are running to catch up."

"I see a bright future ahead for agriculture in Pennsylvania and for our College of Agriculture," Smith added. "However, we are going to have to be vocal about our needs; seek the resources that are necessary; and be willing to work together for the continued success of the industry."

"The partnership which links the resources of the land-grant university to industry, to the grower, and to the citizens of the Commonwealth is a vital partnership," Smith said. "We will need to provide more effective research and better educational programs."

"And, as I said earlier, we are going to have to focus a great deal of attention on technology, marketing, and transfer of information, as well as, our more traditional efforts at increasing production. There is no doubt about it, farmers are going to have to become more efficient. Those who will succeed the most are those who become the most efficient."

Some of the people working toward making farming more efficient and better were honored during the PFU convention.

Naomi Spahr, president of the Lancaster County Farmers Union, received a special service award for the hours she spends helping farmers, and an enrollment award for outstanding membership recruitment.

Also receiving a special service award was Edward Krebs, president of the Lebanon County Farmers Union. And, also receiving an enrollment award was Barbara Woods, state vice president of PFU.

Special recognition awards went to Forney Longenecker, Lancaster County, for his leadership abilities, and John Drumheller, retired president of Farmers Union of Snyder-Union County.

The Triangle Awards given to

# Ag fiscal news

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--Promote consumption of Pennsylvania agricultural products.

--Promote Pennsylvania's image as a leading agricultural state.

In another departure in the budget, the Pennsylvania Fair

Fund is now a specific line item instead of being budgeted from horse and harness racing revenues.

In recent years with the decline in revenues from horse and harness racing, the Pennsylvania Fair Fund was coming up short in its

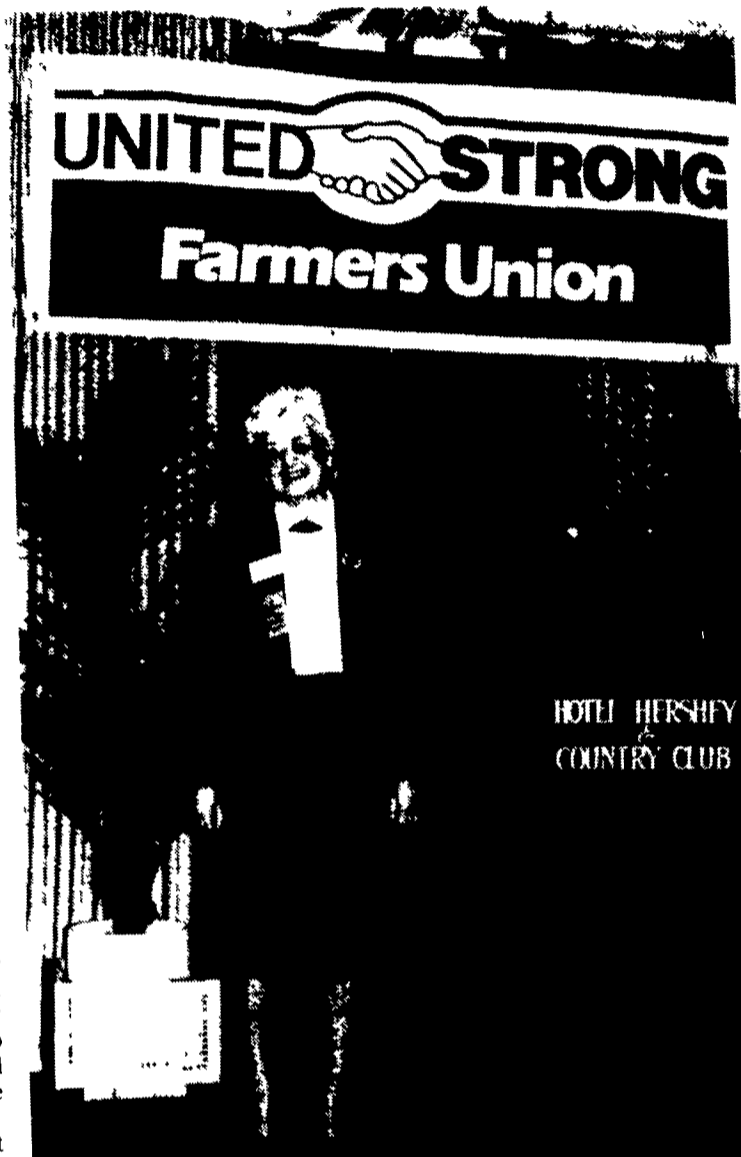
the outstanding individuals in education, legislation and cooperation went to Irk McConnell, Washington County Farmers Union president, legislation, William Sturges, president of Tioga-Potter County Farmers Union, cooperation; and Verus Shaner, president of the Lycoming County Farmers Union, education.

In explaining the purpose of PFU, James Brown, president of

PFU, said, "We represent the family-type agriculture. We help the farmers organize themselves.

Farming income is so low and has been so depressed for so long that we are squeezing farmers out of business," Brown said.

Everyone in the country will suffer. We just can't keep squeezing the family farm out of business and that is exactly what is happening."



Naomi Spahr, president of the Lancaster County Farmers Union, received two awards during the PFU convention. She was honored for the time she spends aiding farmers and for the number of members she has recruited to the Union.

comes available. In addition to providing funds for the community and county fairs in the state, this fund also includes money for ag research and marketing activities.

But as a result of the shortfall in racing funds in recent years, the research portion of the fund suffered since allocations first went to cover the fairs.

Now with a specific line item of \$2.5 million for the Fair Fund, it is expected that all phases of fund activities will be able to be carried out.

The ag portion of the proposed state budget also contains continued funding for existing programs and projects, such as Brucellosis, Johne's Disease, Junior Dairy Show, Dairy Show and Livestock Show.

In the capital portion of the proposed state budget, the only major item is an allocation of \$1,430,000 to remove the floor of the main exhibition area in the Farm Show Complex and replace it with a new, non-skid surface.

Concerning the Supplementary Appropriation Bill signed by the Governor this week, the \$2 million in Avian funds will be devoted to two main purposes.

--Poultry farmers who lost birds between last Sept. 1 and Nov. 9 prior to the start of the federal indemnity program will be reimbursed for their losses.

--The bulk of the funds will also go toward aiding farmers in the cleaning and disinfecting costs incurred as a result of Avian.

The cooperative state-federal pilot project on pseudorabies totals \$426,500 comprised of matching amounts from each. Cooperating in the project will be PDA and USDA-APHIS personnel.

This marks the first year that the state has received an appreciable amount of funds from the federal government for the pilot PRV project. Only 23,000 was received last year.

Pennsylvania will be one of five states conducting pilot projects aimed at devising a program for the eradication of the disease.

In addition to Pennsylvania, state pilot projects will be conducted in North Carolina and Wisconsin featuring the collection of blood samples at slaughter houses in order to trace the disease back to farm locations faster.

Pilot projects in Illinois and Iowa, which were also funded last year, are conducted on a county level in counties where the disease is endemic and sampling is done on a farm-by-farm basis.

Here in Pennsylvania, the pilot project will also include work with known infected herds. No funds will be used for identification.

Pseudorabies has also been recently confirmed in two new herds located in the Manheim area of Lancaster County.

The state pilot projects are ultimately aimed at providing information for the possible development of an eradication program which might be implemented on a national level.



The afternoon speaker at Wednesday's banquet was Samuel Smith, Dean of the School of Agriculture at Penn State.



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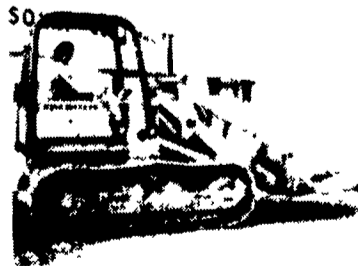
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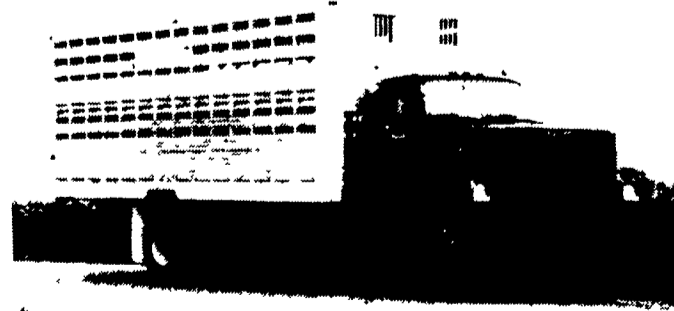
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