

# PennAg hears legislative update at 106th convention

**BY JACK HUBLEY**  
LANCASTER — New developments in the proposed "right to know" legislation highlighted a legislative board meeting on Tuesday during PennAg Industries Association's convention at Lancaster's Host Farm Resort.

This year's meeting marked the 106th annual convention held by the 570-member agricultural trade organization, with about 240 members attending meetings featuring agribusiness, political and educational leaders.

Highlighting proposed legislation of interest to agribusiness, Tuesday's meeting featured a panel of three state legislators: Sen. Noah Wenger, vice chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee; Rep. Samuel Morris, Chairman of the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee; and Rep. June Honaman, also a member of the House committee.

Acknowledging that the concept of a "right to know" bill is "a worthy one", Wenger pointed out that H.B. 1236, as it was passed by the House in June, was in need of some revisions.

"The bill, as it was passed, was particularly onerous to agriculture and agribusiness," said the Senator, adding that the legislation had been designed for the industrial workplace.

Outlining some revisions that had been hammered out on Monday evening, Wenger began with one of the bill's original provisions that would require anyone storing more than 1,000 pounds of chemicals to notify emergency personnel as to the nature and location of the substance. Fertilizers were included in this category, making this provision unnecessarily burdensome for farmers as well as emergency personnel such as fire companies and police departments, Wenger said. As of Monday night, an agreement had been made to delete this section.

Also under the original bill, farmers mixing more than 10 gallons of chemicals would be required to provide a material safety data sheet, (MSDS) and

separate label for each different mixture. The current revision waives this requirement if the farmer is mixing for immediate use. Also, the bill has been revised to allow chemical suppliers to provide a separate MSDS for a mixture's ingredients rather than requiring a new form for each individual mixture.

Also revised was a provision calling for on-site testing if that site was judged to be a potential hazard. Pointing out that such a clause could lead to harassment, the Senator stated that an amendment had been added requiring the state to pay for on-site testing, thus releasing the farmer from the threat of financial loss.

In other changes, individuals filing suit for alleged chemical-related violations may do so only for enforcement purposes. The original bill would have permitted courts to award monetary compensation.

In concluding remarks, Wenger stated that the transition to the new regulations won't be easy despite the recent revisions. Differences with other state and federal regulations will undoubtedly create some confusion, especially in the area of interstate commerce, he said.

On other legislative fronts Rep. Morris noted that \$1 million had been appropriated for Pa.'s share of the Chesapeake Bay program, and the new milk security law will provide protection to farmers in the event of milk dealer bankruptcy.

Morris reported that \$620,000 had been appropriated for avian flu research. "I hope a vaccine will come out of this," he said, adding that a repeat of the avian flu debacle would ruin Pa.'s poultry industry.

One bill in need of attention, Morris said, is a bill extending the life of the Milk Marketing Board. Morris emphasized that this control measure was necessary for the welfare of farmers and consumers alike.

Asked to comment on the so-called comparable worth legislation, Rep. Honaman stated that the traditional differences in



Sen. Noah Wenger, vice chairman of the Senate Ag Committee, addresses the PennAg membership during the group's 106th annual convention on Tuesday. Other panel members pictured are Rep. Samuel Morris, chairman of the House Ag and Rural Affairs Committee, and House committee member Rep. June Honaman.

pay scales between men and women will gradually disappear as a result of education. Pointing out that men and women do have

freedom of choice in the job market, Honaman added that it should not be the legislature's duty to dictate this kind of policy for

private enterprise. "I don't feel that this (type of legislation) has any business before a legislative body," she concluded.

## Garden Spot offers adult study

**NEW HOLLAND** — Adult evening classes of interest to rural residents are being offered by the Eastern Lancaster County School District.

The classes include freestanding wood and coal stoves, beekeeping, small engines and woodworking. Classes begin the second week of October and continue for 5 to 10 weeks depending on class. Registration is not limited to district residents.

The course on the safe operation and use of freestanding wood and

coal stoves will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 8. It will be taught by Rick Horst of Harold M. Horst Inc., New Holland. A \$5.00 material fee will be charged.

On Thursday, Oct. 11 at 7 p.m. Bob Hughes will launch a beginning beekeepers course. Hughes is a hog farmer, beekeeper and certified bee inspector. Registration fee is \$29.00.

C. J. Hochstetler, expert on antique engine restoration, will open his course on Oct. 9 and meet

at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Proper care and service of small engines will be stressed. Registration fee is \$22.00.

Woodworking will be taught by Daniel O'Hagan starting on Tuesday, Oct. 9, at 7 p.m.

All classes begin during the week of Oct. 8 and meet at Garden Spot High School, New Holland.

For further information and registration call or contact Garden Spot High School (717) 354-4031, Ext. 33.

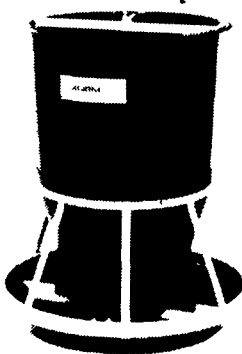
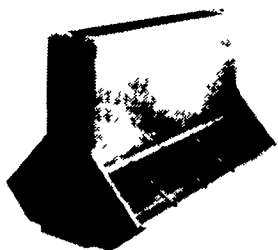
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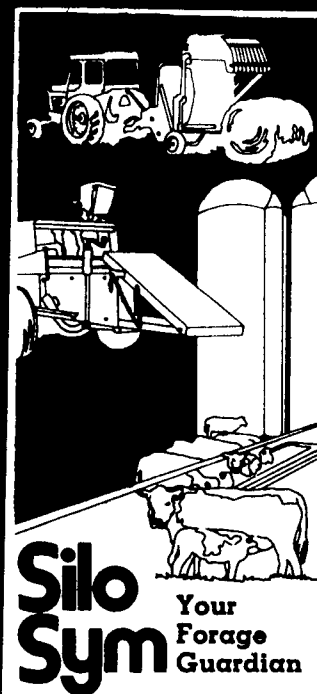
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