

# Farm Organizations Council eyes budgets, promotion

## SPECIAL TO LANCASTER FARMING

**HERSHEY** — The State Council of Farm Organizations February 3 annual meeting was marked by a somber report on Penn State College of Agriculture funding needs and two controversial resolutions during the policy session.

"We need \$11 million to wean ourselves from the federal (funding) system," Acting College of Agriculture Dean Dr. Wayne Hinish told Council members. Flat federal budgets coupled with Gramm-Rudman have led to the shortfall.

Currently, federal dollars account for more than 50 percent of the extension budget and more than 30 percent of the research budget, Dr. Hinish said.

In order to maintain programs at their current levels, that shortfall will have to be met in the next two to three years, he said.

On a more positive note, "no state has a comparable computer network that matches Pennsylvania's Penn Network," Dr. Hinish assured the audience. The system is available to any citizen in Pennsylvania with access to a computer, modem and telephone.

And student enrollment is up 4.5 percent in 1986, perhaps an indication that enrollment has bottomed out, he said. However, Dr. Hinish noted that Pennsylvania as a whole needs to do a

better job of encouraging its high school graduates to attend college. The state ranks 44th out of 50 in high school students going to college.

In the policy session, questions arose regarding a proposed state resolution dealing with commodity marketing boards and an existing federal policy position dealing with assigned payments.

The new resolution implied support of House Bill 1888, which would amend the current Commodity Marketing Act. That bill was passed by the House and is currently in the Senate.

Tempers flared as spokesmen on each side of the issue stated their reasons for support or opposition. When put to a vote, at least one Council member voted "nay." Because of the Council's unanimity rule, that resolution failed.

The existing federal resolution had been passed in response to the Schepp's Cheese situation. The proprietary handler withheld funds from farmer milk checks to make payments on FmHA loans, under a signed agreement with the farmer. However, the firm did not make the loan payments.

Discussion centered around the section of the resolution which stated that "the lender must notify the producer that his payment is delinquent after 10 days."

Farm Credit System representatives asked the group if

this implied that the farmer would not be liable for the payment if the lender made notification in 11 days rather than 10 and how the Council intended notification to take place.

This section of the resolution was deleted, making the Council's policy position one of support for legislation which would make it a crime of embezzlement if any other business failed to make a payment on a farmer account if the farmer had directed the business to withhold funds and do so.

The Council also now supports any efforts to make the federal government require that the

country of origin be printed on the containers of fresh and processed commodities, including fruit juices and juice concentrates. This provision would also apply to any product containing ingredients from more than one country.

In officer elections, members re-elected the current officers: Ivo V. Otto, Jr., Inter-State Milk Producers, president; Charles Benner, PFA, vice president; and Gail McPherson, Penn's Agri-Women, secretary-treasurer. Executive committee members elected were Ernie Miller, Pennsylvania State Grange; Dennis Grumbine, Pennsylvania Pork

Producers; and Stanley Weaver, Pennsylvania Vocational Agriculture Teachers.

Dr. Robert Marshak, dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine, reported that at the half-way mark in the Second Century Fund Campaign the Vet School has raised \$22 million in cash and irrevocable instruments. The goal is \$41.5 million.

The Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine is the first to establish a chair in humane ethics and animal welfare. Dr. Marshak did not elaborate on the qualifications needed by the professor who will fill the chair

## Grubb to speak at York Agribusiness Seminar

**YORK** — The Honorable Richard E. Grubb, Pennsylvania's Secretary of Agriculture, heads the list of speakers for the annual York Agribusiness Seminar, planned for Thursday, February 27, at the Martin's banquet center at the York Fairgrounds.

"Agriculture and Its Environment" is the theme for the 23rd ag-business event, which traditionally draws a large attendance from both the ag-related business and farming communities

Morning topics look at environmental concerns from both

the farmers' and business' viewpoint. Speakers include Penn State soil specialist Dr. Les Lanyon, and Dr. John Skelly, head of the Plant Pathology department, along with Curvin Snyder, III, manager of the Envrite Corporation.

Scheduled for afternoon appearances are Emerson Martin, of Ohio, dealing with the agricultural environment, Penn State water quality specialist Karen Mancl, and Paul Swartz, state director of Environmental Resources, who will address the Chesapeake Bay

issue. Wrap-up for the day is a speaker's panel, moderated by Codorus Fertilizer Company's George Williams.

Deadline for reservations is Thursday, February 20, with luncheon included in the \$12 fee. Reservations may be made through the York Area Chamber of Commerce, Box 1229, York, PA 17405

Business or organizations interested in placing an exhibit at the seminar should contact Jay Rush, York Farm Credit, at 792-3652

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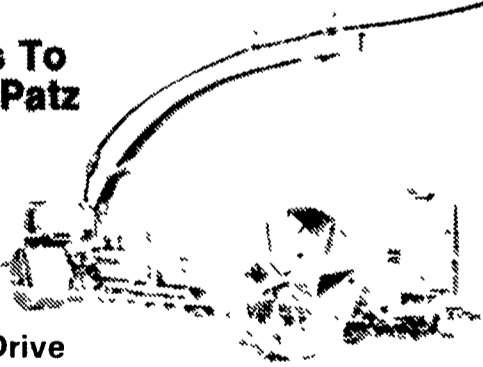
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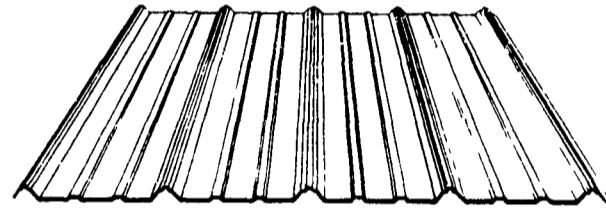
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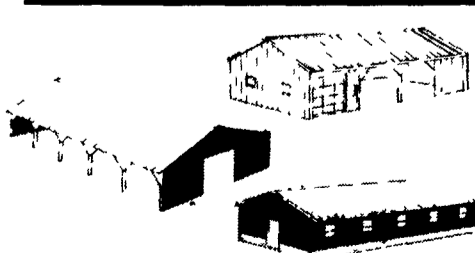
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