

Extension group lobbies legislators

HARRISBURG, PA — The Pennsylvania Council of Cooperative Extension Associations (PCEEA) held its ninth annual Capitol Day and Legislative Banquet in Harrisburg recently. The Council sponsors the banquet to express appreciation to state legislators for their support of Pennsylvania's Cooperative Extension programs.

The day-long program included visits to legislators' offices in the

afternoon as well as the evening banquet. The volunteers were asking the legislators to fund a special package of agriculture, technology and extension programs.

The funding package is needed to continue Extension staffing levels and programs, to support biotechnological research, and to replace obsolete, worn-out equipment. The request is for \$2.9 million.

Speakers at the banquet in-

cluded: Richard Grubb, Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture; Samuel Hayes, state representative (81st District); Dr. W. Wayne Hinish, dean of the College of Agriculture; and Mary Grim, PCEEA president.

"Pennsylvania's No. 1 industry — agriculture, is important to all Pennsylvanians," said Secretary Grubb. "One in five Pennsylvanians is employed in an ag related business in Pennsylvania."

In his remarks Representative Hayes stressed the importance of continuing the partnerships that have served agriculture well. "Agriculture has grown and prospered because of the unique cooperative effort between local,

state, and federal government and the people — called Cooperative Extension," Hayes said.

"We need to continue to provide the kinds of research and Extension programs that have helped the people of Pennsylvania," said Dr. Hinish.

"Pennsylvania agriculture is a world class industry," Hinish added. "Our ability to produce, process, and distribute food and fiber products is the envy of the world. How long Pennsylvania agriculture will remain a world class industry will depend on how willing we are to invest in our future."

"We cannot withstand the proposed federal cuts which chops

at the very roots of our research and educational support base. This will be a major challenge to our program effectiveness next year.

"Our Extension Service makes direct contact with one of every 10 Pennsylvanians each year and takes our research-based information to the people. Our programs are for urban and rural families alike, young and old, and are supported at the county and community level by thousands of volunteers."

The Pennsylvania Council of Cooperative Extension Associations represents those volunteers. The Council advises Extension on programs and priorities at the county and state level.

Schuylkill County DHIA

BY ROBIN PHILLIPS
Staff Correspondent

PITMAN — The Schuylkill County DHIA association held their annual awards meeting recently, at the Mahantonga Fire Company, Pitman, Pa. The 59th year of the association was celebrated with 39 herds on test for the year, 1985.

The high herd for the year went to the 30 cow herd of Brian Ruch, Andreas. This is the first year at the top of the county list for the 25 year old dairyman who managed his cows to the top production of 21,843 pounds of milk, and 838 pounds of fat. Ruch was also recognized as the most improved herd in milk production, fat production, and protein production for the year. His production rose from the 1984 average of 19,280 M, 755 F, and 627 P.

Carl A. Farms, Pitman, took second place honors in yearly production averages with their 58 registered Holsteins producing, 20,805 M and 821 F. The well-known India cow in the Carl A. Farms herd took the top honors in individual production records for milk and fat with her records of 29,280 M and 1,197 F. "Patula", another cow from the Carl A. Farms herd received first place in the individual awards for protein production with 895 P on 27,967 pounds milk.

Recognition was also given to Jere Gearhart, Ringtown, for the lowest somatic cell count in the county. Gearhart maintained an average count of 136,000 with his 57 Holsteins pumping out an average of 16,091 M and 575 F for 1985.

The average production for all the herds in Schuylkill County was 16,312 M and 613 F, almost 1000

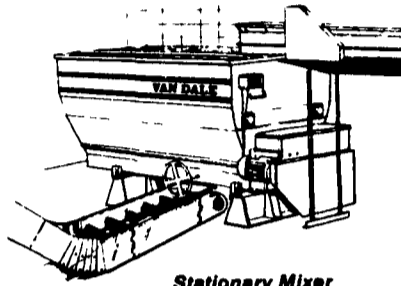
pounds above the state average of 15,771 M and 580 F.

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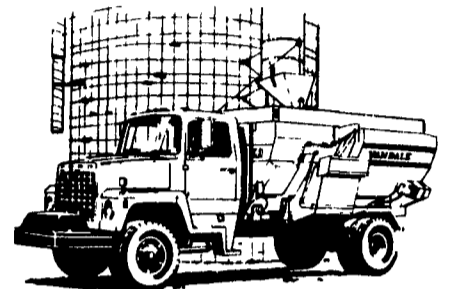
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