



Nearly 100 persons attended the FARMER dinner at the Harrisburg Marriott last week to raise funds for the Pennsylvania Farmers Association Political Action pact. Under the title, Farmers Allied for a Responsive, More Effective Representation, the association heard former Governor George Leader say that farmers can make a difference in government if they are willing to get involved in the political process. Farmers must speak for themselves. But they must speak not just when a crisis happens but on a regular basis. Leader said public officials are both your servant and your master. You must treat politicians with the same respect and friendliness as you would any other professional. In the photo (left to right): John Stoner, Chairman FARMER; former Governor Leader and Keith Eckel, President of PFA.

## Goat seminar held

BY ROBIN PHILLIPS  
Staff Correspondent

LEESPORT — Although the crowd was small, interest was high at the Southeast Pennsylvania Goat Seminar held last Saturday, April 19th, at the Berks County Ag Center, Leesport. There were many questions, and many discussions as goat breeders and educational personnel addressed mastitis, external parasites, and water quality.

A renowned goat expert, Dr. Mary Smith, assistant professor, New York State College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University, traveled to Berks County to speak to the group.

Currently working on a book on diseases of goats to be published in 1988, Dr. Smith spent time in France researching dairy goats. She also edited a symposium on sheep and goat medicine published in 1983 by W.B. Saunders.

Most people view goats more as pets instead of a commercially profitable enterprise, according to Dr. Smith. "Most of you are doing this (raising goats) because of the love of goats instead of the love of a steady income," she began. With this in mind, Dr. Smith included management tips, practical ad-

vice, and the best remedies geared for the "backyard" goat breeder.

Throughout her lecture and slide presentation, she enhanced the discussion with actual pictures of skin disorders and humor.

The topic, Caprine Dermatologic Problems, or goat skin conditions, created much interest with the goat breeders. Skin disorders account for approximately half of the health problems in small animals according to Dr. Smith. Included in her lecture was discussions on lice and keds, earmites, several types of mange, ticks, and warbles.

"Lice can debilitate a goat by making it anemic," Dr. Smith commented. She told the breeders that any flea product that is labeled as safe to use on cats can be used on goats effectively against the lice. She suggested repeating treatment every ten days for one month. A commercial dairy operation must follow regulations for milk producers.

Regarding the problem of earmites, Smith said, "in general, they are not worth bothering about." She added that earmites are annoying to goats but cause no real problems. The treatment for eradication proves to be much more annoying to the goat and a real problem for the owner.

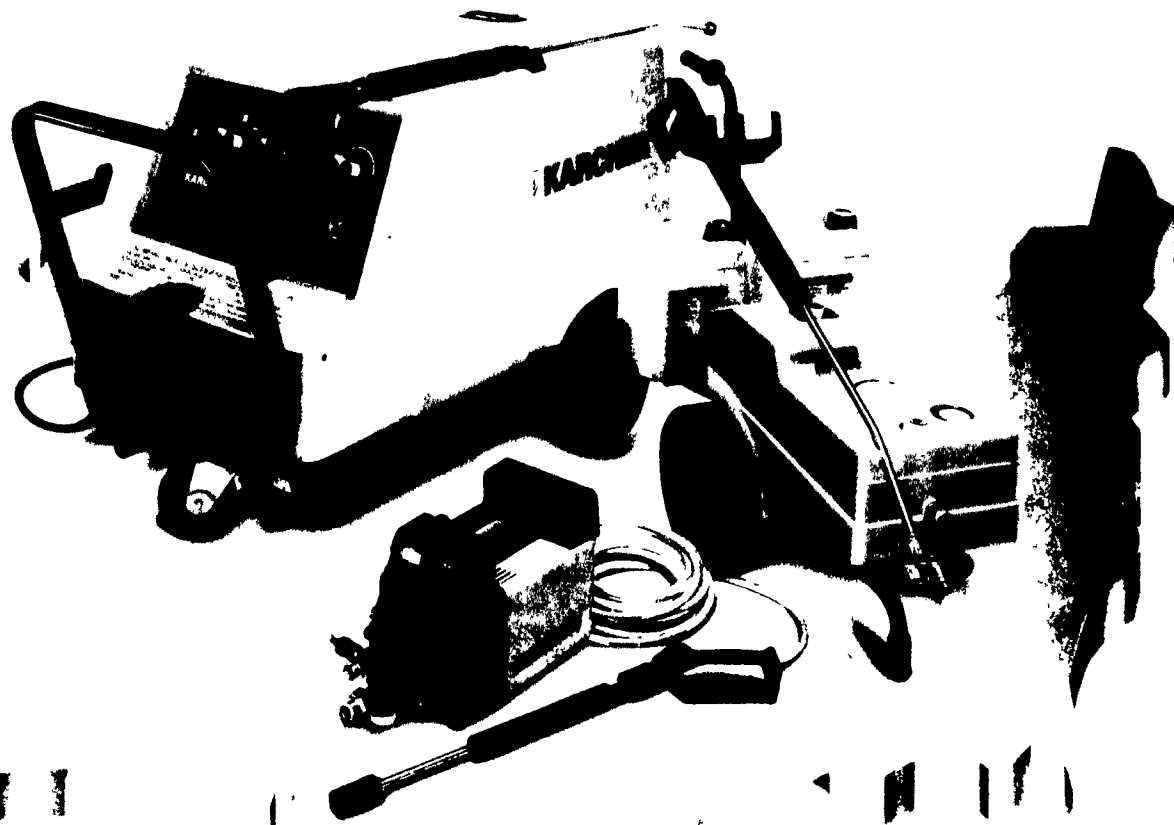
She then went on to list many other skin disorders and relating problems. She made a point of introducing a relatively new product currently available and praised its effectiveness against parasites.

"Ivermectin is the great miracle wormer for cows and horses," Dr. Smith began. Although it is not approved for use in lactating dairy cows, it is a very effective wormer for internal and external parasites. The same weight dosage guidelines used for cows can be used for goats.

She suggested injecting it under the skin behind the shoulders. Also available as an oral drug, Dr. Smith recommended the injectable since it keeps under the skin for weeks and only a single dose is needed.

Clyde Myers, Berks County Extension Agent, was also on hand to discuss water quality in home wells. He encouraged breeders to begin testing their water if they are having problems such as stomach disorders or diarrhea in their goat herds or in their family.

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## Honey support price to drop

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Agriculture Richard E. Lyng today announced that honey producers will receive an average price support loan rate of 64 cents per pound on their 1986 production, as required by the Food Security Act of 1985. The new rate is 1.3 cents below the 1985 level.

Extracted honey loan rates will range from 67.1 cents to 52.2 cents per pound, depending on color and class, Lyng said.

The rates, which apply to extracted honey in 60-pound or larger containers, are: White or lighter, 67.1 cents; Extra light amber, 63.1 cents; Light amber, 58.2 cents; Other table and non-table honey, 52.2 cents.

Loans will be offered on 1986-crop honey in eligible containers on or off farms. Producers have until Jan. 31, 1987, to request loans that will mature April 30, 1987.

Producers with honey price support loans will be permitted to buy back their loans at the price support rate or a lesser price as determined by the secretary of agriculture.