

# Spechter Visits Somerset Co. Farm

**BY MARGIE FUSCO**  
**Cambridia Co. Staff Correspondent**  
 Arlen Spechter, incumbent Republican candidate for one of Pennsylvania's U.S. Senate seats, recently told a farm audience that he cares about Pennsylvania agriculture. Spechter spoke at a chicken barbecue near Davidsville, in a picnic grove that overlooked much of Somerset County. His visit, sponsored by the Somerset County Republican Committee, attracted a bipartisan crowd of 200 farmers from as far away as Bedford and Blair Counties.

Noting that Pennsylvania has the largest rural population of any state in America, Spechter said he was concerned about farm issues. He pointed to his membership on the agriculture subcommittee of the Senate appropriations committee, where he plays a role in the distribution of funds for the farming community.

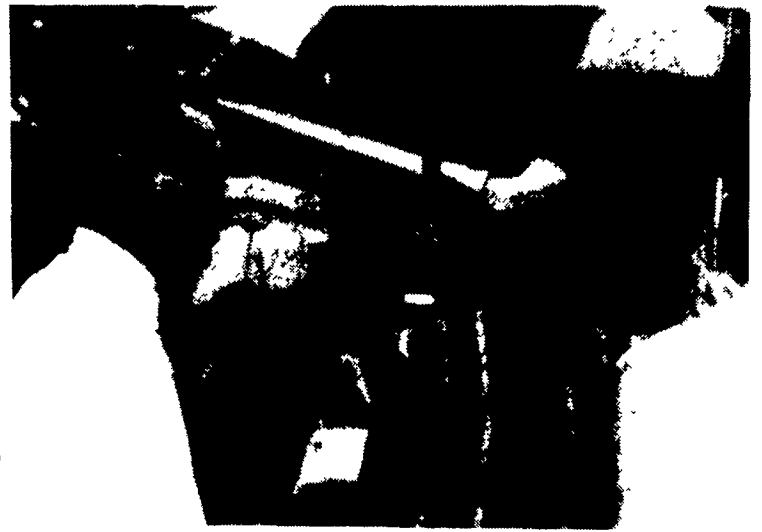
Spechter cited his own background as a help in his past.

"Some people think of me as a Philadelphia lawyer, which I am, but I also have had substantial experience in the problems of the farming community," he said. Spechter explained that he was born and raised in Kansas and spent his summers as a teenager working in the wheat harvest there, before moving to Pennsylvania in 1948. In addition to drawing from his farming background, Spechter said that he had formed an agriculture committee, "to advise me and give me insights on what to do."

Joseph Johns of Davidsville, a member of that advisory committee, introduced Spechter by telling the audience about his record. Johns noted that Spechter had provided funding for poultry farmers hit by avian flu, milk consumption research, the rural electrification and telephone program, brucellosis, gypsy moth control, and the extension service. Johns also said that Spechter has supported changes in estate tax

laws to make inheritance of family farms easier and that Spechter is currently supporting prompt payments for poultry farmers and has supported the dairy price support program. Johns added, "We're not totally in favor of a price support program," and noted that the committee had recommended support only as a temporary measure, to sustain farmers until a more market-oriented program could be developed.

Away from the podium, Spechter echoed Johns' concerns about dairying. "The number one issue is dairy, and the problem has been to adequately compensate the Pennsylvania dairy farmer," Spechter said. "I don't frankly think we've found the answer yet." He suggested additional research to increase consumption of dairy products as one solution, and resolving the problem of subsidized imports as a second solution. Spechter noted that he has helped obtain funding for more research in dairy product consumption through Pennsylvania State University, and he is working on the import problem.



Arlen Spechter (right) meets with Chester Erb, a Bedford County dairy farmer during Chicken barbecue in Davidsville, Somerset County.

Senate Bill 1655, sponsored by Spechter, would allow the federal courts to issue an injunction to stop any product, including food or manufactured goods, from being imported if it is subsidized or being dumped. "The bill is now out of committee," Spechter said, "and is coming up on the Senate floor soon. I'm very optimistic we can

get it passed."

Spechter also expressed concern about issues such as foreclosure and farm land preservation. "I think it's essentially going to require a lot of continual care by the national farming community and by the farm leadership and by senators like myself," he concluded.

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Delaware extension agricultural engineer Dr. Jim Scarborough tested various nozzle and pressure

combinations in the laboratory and an empty broiler house to determine the amount of water deposited on the litter by various nozzle/pressure combinations. He then developed equations relating the wetting rate to operating pressure and relative humidity. The procedure he used also provided an indirect method of measuring misting-system cooling capacity.

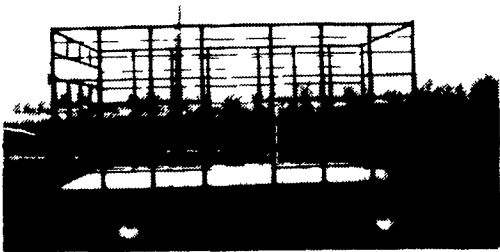
Scarborough found that high-pressure systems (250 to 600 psi) with relatively smaller nozzles deposited significantly less water on the floor than the systems currently in use. A higher cooling rate per unit of water was also achieved.

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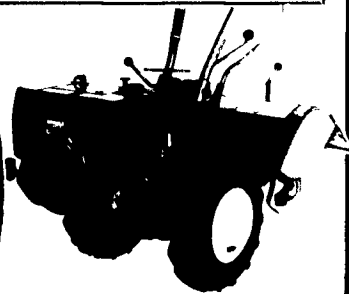
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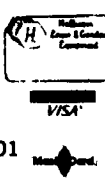


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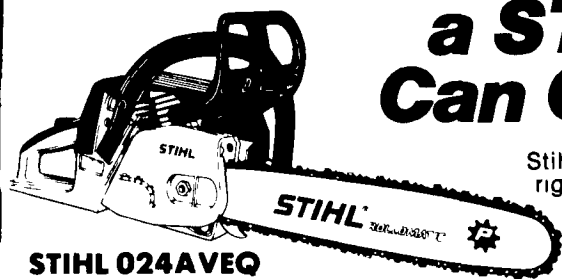
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