

Lancaster Farming

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Optimism Keynotes Ag Friends Kickoff

BY EVERETT NEWSWANGER
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HERSHEY — "I believe that instead of fearing change, we need to embrace it," said Keith Eckel, president of the Pennsylvania Farmers Association Board of Directors.

Speaking at the Kickoff Banquet at the Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation here Thursday, Eckel said, "Tonight we embark on a great new venture. And that venture is for Friends of Agriculture in Pennsylvania to

come together to fund this effort that will benefit not only the ag community but the entire world."

The kickoff was the first public meeting for the foundation to gather funds for an endowment. The foundation sponsored by PFA but expanded to include all segments of the research production and agribusiness community has set a goal to raise \$1 million in three years. The income from this fund will subsidize research and informational projects related to agriculture.

Eckel drew attention to the foundations green and brown logo that depicts farm land under cultivation, crops growing and pollen being lifted airborne to assure the present agriculture and future growth and its preservation.

The color brown is symbolic of the good earth while the color green represents growth.

"As I look at ag today," Eckel said, "I think there is one thing we can be certain of. And that certainty is change. Ag has changed

dramatically and tremendously in the last 100 years, the 50 years, even in the last 10 years. It's changed on my own farm because my dad who works the equipment that allows us to cultivate a hun-

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Dairy Of Distinction Advances

BY EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

HERSHEY — The Dairy of Distinction farm recognition

program, advanced the next step forward when the Pennsylvania Board of Directors met here at Hershey Foods Monday afternoon. Steve Spencer, Penn State Extension dairy specialist, called the meeting to order and recommended that Pennsylvania be divided into 10 districts that would comprise approximately the same

nearly a hundred dairy farmers and industry leaders were listed by the directors to be contacted as local committee persons for the program. When each district has a local committee in place, the stage will be set for the program in Pennsylvania to begin in time for

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PLA Names 'Man Of The Year'

HARRISBURG — Ray Lehr cautioned his audience to brace themselves for major changes in the livestock industry in the coming years during his address at the Pennsylvania Livestock

Association's banquet in Harrisburg on Oct. 3.

"We're in a whole new arena in agriculture, and specifically in the livestock business," said PLA's president. "The 'new arena' will

have a lot less people and companies involved," he added.

As examples of how the industry is being reshaped, Lehr pointed out that the nation's five major feed companies have all changed ownership within the past 18 months. He also noted that, largely due to mergers, the number of major tractor manufacturers will soon be reduced to three.

Lehr said that livestock industry men surviving the lean years would be part of an exciting industry in the future. He pointed to the beef and pork checkoff programs as bright spots on the industry's horizon. "I think we have a tremendous future in livestock here in Pennsylvania," he concluded.

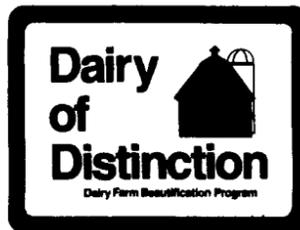
Lehr's keynote address was part of the traditional PLA event in which the association honors its Man of the Year for outstanding contributions to the livestock industry. Named this year's recipient of the award was Peter H. Krall of Catasauqua.

A 1956 graduate of Penn State's

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Livestock Association board member Henry Gruber (left) congratulates Lehigh County's Peter Krall, the recipient of the association's "Man of the Year" award.



number of dairy farms in each district. The outline of the districts as shown on the accompanying map provide an interesting survey of dairy farms in Pennsylvania as well as provides the basis for the Dairy of Distinction program.

District 19 is only one county—Lancaster—but has the most dairy farms, 1900. District 13 includes the greatest number of counties, 12, and the fewest number of dairy farms, 1135. But the directors agreed the district divisions were equitable and provided territories that could be worked nicely into the program.

After the districts were named,

Tobacco Auction To Expand

BY JACK HUBLEY

LANCASTER — Any new business venture is bound to have its share of skeptics in the gallery, and a company called Pennsylvania Tobacco Auction, Inc., was no exception. Formed last year by a group of Lancaster County investors, PTA gained considerable support from the county's tobacco growers in its attempt to overhaul the traditional tobacco marketing system here.

When the smoke cleared at the end of the 1985 buying season, PTA had marketed 4.7 million pounds of tobacco, representing close to one-fourth of the state's crop. The 3.3 million pounds of Maryland-type

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KILE Showcases Champion Livestock



By Monday evening more than 3,000 head of livestock had paraded before judges at the 30th Keystone International Livestock Exposition in Harrisburg. While the show hosts plenty of competition in both open and youth shows, KILE's smaller exhibitors never fail to produce many of the event's biggest moments. This certainly was a memorable year for Jason Rodibaugh (left photo) whose father, Jack, trucked his Durocs all the way from Rensselaer, Indiana, and was named premier exhibitor in the national



Duroc show held in conjunction with KILE this year. In the process, four-year-old Jason got in some hog driving practice for future shows. It was also a memorable show for the Fox Hill Farm family of Kennett Square. Pictured are (left) Erica McClellan, Matthew McClellan and Chris Jordan, who topped the junior Angus Show the day before Fox Hill cattle swept the Open Angus Show. You'll find the most complete KILE story available throughout this week's *Lancaster Farming*.