

Lancaster Farming

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Four Sections

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ANNUAL MEETING



Dr. Larry Specht, Penn State University, receives a portrait that's to be hung in Sire Power's board room. The presentation was part of the "Service to AI Award for 1986" presented by Lloyd Ebersole, assistant manager for the breeding stud co-op at the annual meeting in Harrisburg this week.

Dr. Specht Receives Sire Power AI Award

BY EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

HARRISBURG WEST — A leading genetic improvement specialist from Penn State University was honored this week at the Sire Power annual meeting here Tuesday. Dr. Larry Specht received the distinguished "Service To AI Award for 1986". Dr. Specht's more than 30 years of service to the Pennsylvania artificial insemination industry included the ground work for young sire sampling programs. He encouraged directors of the AI studs to move in that direction even before the value of such programs was recognized.

Now these programs have been implemented to the point where the genetic base for all AI studs in Pennsylvania depend greatly on the young sire sampling programs. At Sire Power this young, sampling program has been raised to 90 young bulls for each of the next two years.

Dr. Specht also provided leadership for the dairy cow sire identification program for DHIA testing. As a result, Pennsylvania ranks high for cows in the testing program to be identified by sire. In 1988 Specht started the Penn State Herd Mate Sire Summary that was continued until USDA began publishing the herd mate sire

summaries about 1965. This information was used by the AI studs in Pennsylvania for promoting (Turn to Page A32)

RCMA Meetings

An RCMA meeting for Chester County dairymen is scheduled for Tuesday, January 27, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Upper Octorara Presbyterian Church along Route 10 midway between Parkersburg and Route 30.

Harold Ely, chairman of the organization, is scheduled to be present to outline the program and answer questions. Independent producers and independent milk handlers are especially urged to attend.

The meeting is sponsored by the Chester County Extension Service, an affirmative action equal opportunity educational institution.

RCMA is in the process of obtaining the support of individual dairymen to begin over-order pricing of milk. All the major milk cooperatives and farm organizations have already given support to RCMA.

Rescheduled

BLUE BALL — The RCMA meeting which was postponed on Thursday, Jan. 22, has been rescheduled for Thursday, Jan. 29.

The meeting will take place at the Blue Ball Elementary School, Blue Ball, at 7:30 p.m.

Harold Ely, former Susquehanna County dairymen and regional coordinator for RCMA, will be the featured speaker.

Any dairymen interested in learning more about the RCMA program are invited to attend.

Farmers Seek Vandalism Legislation

BY JOYCE BUYP

York County Correspondent
SHREWSBURY — Four-wheel drives "spinning donuts" in fall wheat fields angered some 80 local farmers enough to hold a sort of protest meeting last November.

New Tobacco

Market Starts

A new tobacco market feature begins this week and will run through the local tobacco marketing season. This feature will reflect the prices paid at the four tobacco auctions currently operating in Lancaster County and will be supplied by the Keystone Tobacco Marketing Group.

Look each week for this new feature in Lancaster Farming's market pages.

One result of that gathering was a call for legislative attention to the problem of property vandalism by motor vehicle.

In a follow-up session last week at the Shrewsbury Township offices, farmers returned for an update from Rep. A. Carville Foster on a legislative amendment to be introduced to deal with vandalism by vehicle.

Foster's proposed amendment to the Motor Vehicle Code would make willful driving on private property, without owner's consent, and causing damage to land and crops, a third-degree misdemeanor.

Under the legislative proposal, punishment could include a \$1,000 fine and/or imprisonment of up to one year, suspension of operating license for 60 days, and restitution made to persons incurring

financial losses as a result of the violation.

In addition, law officials could impound a vehicle used to commit such a violation, pending final disposition of the violation charge.

Exception to the law would be considered in the event of circumstances constituting an emergency.

Foster plans to introduce vehicular vandalism legislation in (Turn to Page A32)

Alfalfa Program Rescheduled

STATE COLLEGE — The Pennsylvania Alfalfa Growers Program, originally scheduled for yesterday, Jan. 23, has been postponed due to adverse weather conditions.

The program will be held Feb. 9, at the State College Elks Club in

Boalsburg. The doors open at 10 a.m., with the awards portion of the program, honoring the state's top growers, getting underway at 11 a.m.

For more information contact Penn State University's Agronomy Extension at 814-865-2543

Exhibitors Roundup \$148,000 From Sale Of Farm Show Herd

BY JACK HUBLEY

HARRISBURG — During his tenure as Secretary of Agriculture, Richard Grubb was one of the state's most visible advocates of Pennsylvania-grown commodities. And during his final days as agriculture secretary last week, Grubb found

himself literally pushing pork at the Farm Show's Sale of Champions on Jan. 23.

The sale ring in Farm Show's Small Arena took on a new look this year, with all three grand champions of the junior beef, swine and lamb shows being on

display at once. Mike Messick's champion steer occupied center stage, with Karen Becker's top hog and Jeff Strausbaugh's champion

lamb enclosed in elevated pens, stage right and stage left, respectively.

When it was time for Becker's

hog to descend from his soap box to kick off the sale, though, even the Secretary's political muscle

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Once again Danny George (left) showed his support for youth livestock programs by offering the top bid of \$7.75 a pound for Mike Messick's (at halter) grand champion steer. Outgoing Secretary of Agriculture Richard Grubb congratulated both buyer and seller.



This year's Farm Show Sale of Champions took on a new look, with the grand champion steer, hog and lamb on display at the same time in the Small Arena.