

Pitt-Penn State Winner To Take Home Milk Can Trophy

Winner of the Pitt-Penn State Football game November 14 will take home more than bruises and bragging rights. The victor also takes possession of a milk can trophy donated by Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program for the dairymen in the Keystone State.

The trophy is a brass and copper replica of the 40-quart milk can that was long standard in the state's \$1.4 billion dairy industry, reports PDPP board chairman Jim Harteis, Ebensburg.

Today, he said, the milk can is a museum piece. Most dairymen

protect milk quality with stainless steel tanks and high tech refrigeration.

Penn State holds the trophy after a convincing 34-14 win in the 1986 Dairy Gridiron Classic at State College that gave the Lions Pennsylvania's mythical college title. The 1987 clash will be held at Pittsburgh.

A second "milk can" goes each year to the winner of Penn State-Temple game. The Nittany Lions retained possession for 12 more months with a 27-13 win October 3

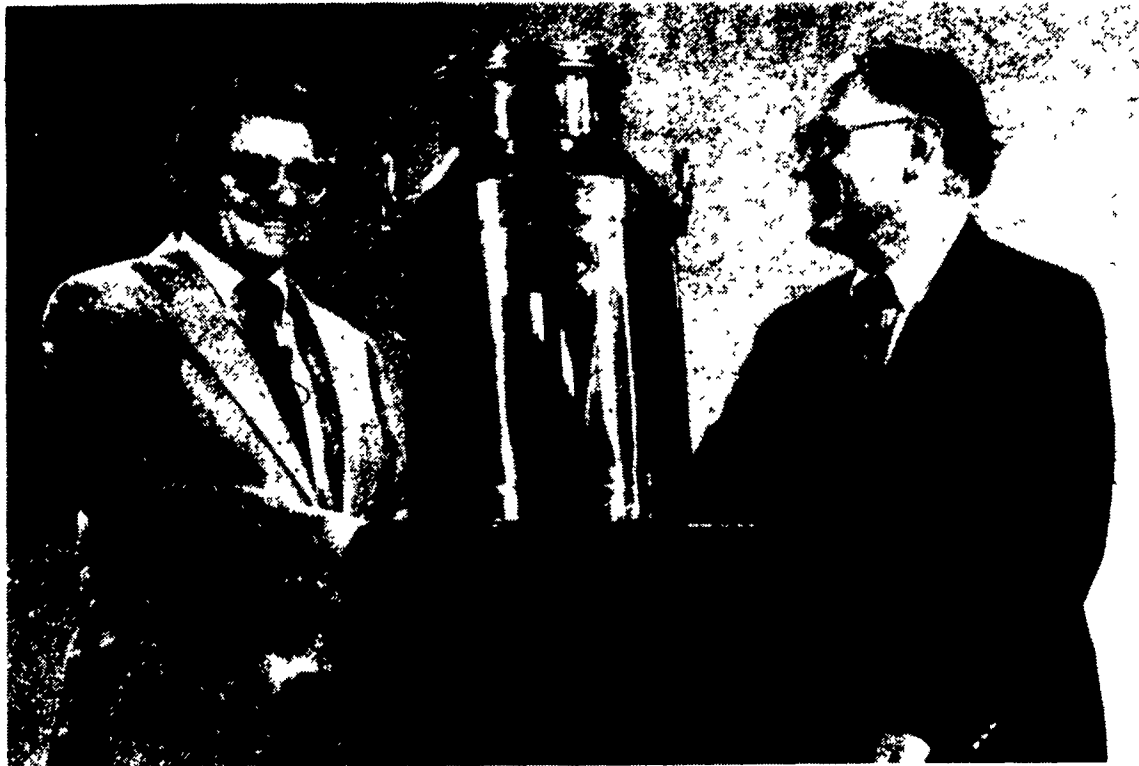
at Beaver Stadium.

The teams aren't the only winners at the two Dairy Gridiron Classics, according to the Cambria county dairyman. The victorious universities also receive \$1,000

academic scholarships from the dairy promotion group.

"We look on the milk can trophy as the start of a football tradition between these fine state schools," Harteis commented.

The Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program is financed by contributions from over 4,000 state dairymen. No tax money is used to support PDPP advertising, promotion and research.



It's a football tradition in the making. "Milk can" trophy now held by Penn State Coach Joe Paterno, left, and the Nittany Lions, will be up for grabs at the Pitt-Penn State football game November 14. Don Duncan, at right, a Robesonla dairyman, is a board member of the Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program that donated the trophy. The winning school also will receive a \$1,000 academic scholarship.

USDA's Conservation Reserve Program Saves Soil

The USDA's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is reducing erosion nationally by keeping approximately 467 million tons of soil annually on the 23 million acres contracted for the program, according to Wilson Scaling, Chief of USDA's Soil Conservation Service (SCS).

"This represents about 16 percent of all the soil erosion that occurs each year on the nation's cultivated cropland," Scaling said. "When the program goal of retiring 40-45 million acres is met by 1990, CRP should reduce erosion on all cultivated land by 25 percent.

Almost 1300 Pennsylvania farmers have enrolled 47,000 acres in the conservation reserve program. SCS State Conservationist James Olson reports that soil losses have been reduced by 848,260 tons per year. "Participation has varied by county but overall has not been up to levels expected," added Olson.

Texas and Kansas lead the nation in participation with 2.7 and 2.0 million acres enrolled respectfully.

Land enrolled in the program is ineligible for cropping and must be planted with permanent vegetative cover or to trees.

According to USDA figures, the average erosion rate on the 22.9 million acres contracted in the

program will drop from 22 to 1.7 tons per acre.

"We're halfway toward our goal a year and a half after the program was authorized," said Scaling. "The program is working well. It is helping to battle erosion in areas where help is needed."

CRP is administered by the Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service (ASCS) with assistance from other USDA agencies such as SCS and the Forest Service.

Participants receive cost-share payments of up to 50 percent of the cost of establishing trees or grass on the acreage placed in the program. The average cost-share paid by USDA is \$37.51 per acre. These monies partially reimburse the farmer for the one time cost of establishing the required cover and soil conservation practices on their cropland.

Farmers also receive annual rental payments for retiring their land through ten year contracts. The average rental paid to farmers who participated in the first five sign-up is \$48.40 per acre.

According to Olson, the next conservation reserve program sign-up period will be from February 1 to 9, 1988. Additional information on CRP can be obtained by contacting ASCS or SCS offices in your county.

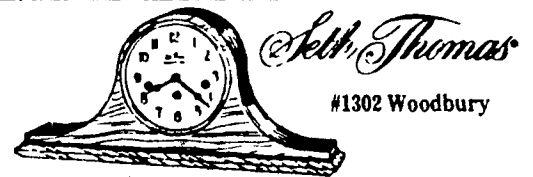
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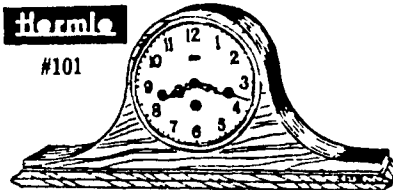
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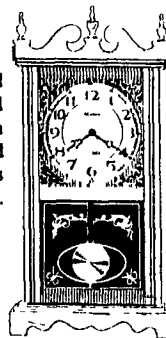
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