

Ag Luncheon Group Has Optimistic View

(Continued from Page A1)

ture," Conklin said.

Conklin reviewed some of the events that were important to agriculture 100 years ago. He found many of the same problems still exist today. In 1888, parents were concerned about the degrading reading material available and were wondering what it would do to their children. Today it's TV and other things.

A hundred years ago farmers were borrowing heavily to buy high priced land and equipment, and some were going broke. Duty-free imports of agriculture products were pouring in from Canada-- 5000 horses in 1887, 16,000 head of cattle, 14,000 sheep, and 14,000,000 dozen of eggs.

And like the drought of 1988, the blizzard of 1888 came close to wiping out nearly half of the farmers. And many farm boys were leaving agriculture and great concern was expressed on the editorial pages of the time.

Conklin believes the future of agriculture like the past will have problems. "A national food policy to ensure plenty of food all the time will result in too much food most of the time," Conklin said. "And

pesticide pressures will continue to work toward zero tolerance. This will have an effect on water quality. And biotechnology will shape the future development of agriculture."

But Conklin remains optimistic. "I believe we will continue the social, economic and political society where we from time to time arrange the winners and losers," Conklin said. "In our society, most of the laws we passed do not make everyone a winner. But we immediately start to plan for future legislation so that the next time around the losers will benefit. That makes a marvelous system because no one loses all the time. Revolutions are born where one segment of society loses all the time," Conklin said.

Since agriculture has survived many problems in the past, Conklin believes it will continue to advance as far as we can see in the future. "I'm optimistic about agriculture's future, despite what you sometimes hear and see in the national media," Conklin said.

Dr. Bryce Jordon, president, Penn State University, said the land grant university, individuals and industry groups and state gov-

ernment were the reasons education, service and research are delivered to the industry called agriculture.

"At Penn State we are grateful to everyone who supports the university and the college of agriculture. PSU is the midst of a campaign to raise private funds to support our academic programs," Jordon said. "I can look over this group at the luncheon and see major contributors. For example, one major food producer in the state recently made a \$1 million commitment to the campaign."

"In addition, we can be grateful to the dedicated men and women who comprise the faculty and staff at the college of agriculture. We have the best professional staff in the world," Jordon said. "And we are now seeing the results of the efforts of the General Assembly to provide new funding for the cooperative extension service. This event at Ag Progress Days brings all these groups together," Jordon concluded.

Dr. Lamartine Hood, dean who chaired the government luncheon, said we have a responsibility to tell the agriculture story outside the industry. "People who, for a lot of reasons, don't understand what agriculture is all about must be told what our industry means to the 12 million citizens in Pennsylvania. That's our educational challenge," Hood said.

The directors of the Farm Credit Bank of Baltimore were concluding their Pennsylvania farm tour at Ag Progress Days. Bank president Gene Swackhamer presented a check to Dean Hood to provide electricity in the Pasto Museum. More than 150 historical and rare items donated by faculty, alumni and friends of the college are housed in the museum. On Tuesday, the tenth anniversary of the museum was celebrated.

Penn State Ag Progress Days provide one of the largest outdoor showcases of the university programs in agriculture technology in the East. Approximately 50,000 persons visited the event this year.



Dean Lamartine Hood, left, receives a check from Gene Swackhamer, President, Farm Credit Bank of Baltimore, as a gift to supply electricity to the Pasto Museum. The presentation was made during the Government Luncheon on noon Wednesday.



Speakers at the Ag Progress Government Day luncheon are (L to R): Dr. Bryce Jordon, Penn State University President; Gordon Conklin, Director, American Agriculturalist Foundation; and Dr. Lamartine Hood, Penn State University Dean. Hood presented a volume of the Penn State University History to Conklin.

Ag Preservation Group

(Continued from Page A1)

The group's other priorities include, in order of importance:

- affecting public policy toward farmland protection. Most of the organization's attention would be focused on municipal planning and development.

- agricultural economic development. The group would influence public policy, help enhance market opportunities, and expand agricultural diversity.

- environmental quality issues such as historic preservation and protecting the natural environment.

Lancaster Farmland Trust has expanded its Board of Directors to broaden the interests and skills of the Board. This will be helpful when establishing working committees.

Funds for the group's activities will come through participation in the state's farmland preservation program and the American Farmland Trust in Washington, D.C., and establishment of a trust fund.

Ag preservation bill

In other farmland preservation news, the ag preservation bill is due to be before the Senate in September when the chamber reconvenes. Earlier this summer the House and Senate approved separate bills, and in the interest of time, the Senate gutted the House bill and inserted Senate wording. The Senate approved this bill and returned it to the House where the representatives voted not to concur with the Senate amendments.

When the Senate returns to session, it is expected to insist on its amendment, at which time a conference committee composed of three senators and three representatives will be formed to work out the differences.

"One of the major concerns is as to how money would be forthcoming to finance the program," stated Senator Noah Wenger (R-36). The House bill proposed issuing one \$10-million bond per year for 10 years. On the other hand the Senate suggested issuing a \$25-million bond and when three-fourths was committed, issuing another bond and so on.

"Our provision would keep

funds flowing as needed," said Sen. Wenger. "With the House provision, the funds could be used up during the first part of the year, and there wouldn't be any more money until the next year."

Other discrepancies include whether control would be primarily at the state or county level and the inclusion of a 25-year contract options.

Once the conference committee hammers out the bill's differences, the members will report back to their respective chamber with their recommendations. At this point no amendments can be made to the bill and the senators and representatives must hand in a straight "yes" or "no" vote.

"I don't see that the differences are insurmountable," commented Warren Lamm, chief of staff for Representative Samuel W. Morris (D-155). "I think we will have a bill signed by the Governor this fall."

Wenger concurred, adding "The state should have a program operative by 1989."

Lancaster County Potato Meeting Scheduled

LANCASTER — Richard Cole, Penn State specialist in potato production and management, will be the featured speaker at the Lancaster County Potato Meeting on August 25. He will speak on:

- Fall storage of potatoes; disease, temperature and humidity control, sprout inhibitors;

- Research on current insecticides to control Colorado Potato Beetle: M-One, Kryocide, Trident, and others;

- Fungicide research update; and

- Potato nutrient and variety trials. Varieties being tested this year include: Norkotah (Wisconsin stock), Norkotah (North Dakota stock), BelRus, Norking, Katahdin, Hampton, Langlade, Somerset, Yukon Gold, FL657, NY81, Atlantic.

The meeting is at the Paul Mast Farm, in Morgantown from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Directions: From the

intersection of Route 23 & Route 10 at Morgantown, travel south on Route 10 for one-quarter mile. Turn into the second farm lane on your right (Conestoga Meadow Farms) before crossing the concrete bridge. We will meet at the second house on the lane.

This meeting is primarily for commercial growers, but anyone interested in potatoes and their cultivation is welcome to attend.

Pesticide update credits will be issued based on Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture approval. For more information call 717/394-6851.

GIGANTIC SELECTION

In Lancaster Farming's CLASSIFIEDS



Friends from Dallastown, Justin McKensy and Travis Reid, perch high on a combine to see the Ag Progress Days view. Justin is the son of Brad and Cindy McKensy, and Travis is the son of Nina and Dan Reid.