

# Indiana County Farmers

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the federal minimum wage to \$4.65 an hour over three years, would have only a slight impact on Pennsylvania farmers, because farms employing less than eight full-time workers would be exempt from paying the new higher minimum wage.

The association also favors a version of the legislation that would allow a sub-minimum wage to be paid during a new employee's training period, possibly for as long as six months.

On the Pennsylvania legislative front, Dan George of Brush Valley, the county association's state legislative spokesman, told the farmers local tax reform remains the main issue.

The county and state farmers associations both have endorsed the package of tax reform proposals, which faces a referendum in the May 16 primary election.

"This is a long-awaited opportunity to reduce some of the local tax burden on real estate and shift it to income where it will be more in line with a person's ability to pay," said Stan Fabin, association president.

"Our board of directors is urging our members and all citizens of the county to get out and vote 'yes' on this all-important issue," he said.

Under the proposed reforms, "nuisance" taxes such as occupation, per capita and residence taxes would be eliminated. In their

place, school districts would be able to collect a personal income tax of up to 1.5 percent, and municipalities could collect up to .75 percent.

Counties also would be permitted to levy a sales tax of up to .5 percent, or 50 cents on every \$100 of purchases, on items already taxed by the state.

Tom Mikesell of Blairsville, the county's representative on the PFA Advisory Commission to the Department of Environmental Resources, explained how his organization intervenes to assist farmers accused of violating environmental regulations.

During a three-month grace period before any DER fines are imposed, the commission assists farmers in voluntarily correcting the environmental situation. In the 10 years the commission has been in existence, Mikesell said it has resolved 98 out of 100 complaints in the 12-county northwest region, saving farmers in those counties thousands of dollars in DER fines.

Mary Neal of Homer City, the county association's policy development co-chairman, urged the members to actively participate in the formulation of policies which

often are adopted at state and even national levels.

"It's the tool that gives each farmer a voice in matters that affect them," she said.

Policy development should be a

process which continues all year, she added, and not just considered before the annual state convention.

Helen McMillen of Marion Center, chairwoman of the Region

III Womens Committee, reminded farmers' wives of upcoming ladies' activities, including the tour of Fayette County attractions May 18.

## Coldsprings Farm Receives Dairy Management Award

SUE CROW

Maryland Correspondent  
WESTMINSTER, MD — This year's top Dairy Management Award presented by Pennfield Corporation went to Coldsprings Farm owned by Marlin and Kathy Hoff. This annual award is based

upon management practices and milk production records explained President Steve Wilson.

They also were the top herd for milk and protein production with a record on 406 cows of 20,747m 679p 725f. The top herd for fat production went to Unicorn Associates-Holsteins owned by Cam Davis and Tom Powell. Their herd of 119 cows had a record of 20,419m 747f 650p.

John W. Rinehart was the herd that showed the highest increase in milk, fat and protein for 1988 with increases of 3,935m 138f and 108p.

From the 94 herds that comprise these two counties the following were the top cow in butter-fat production for each breed. Holstein: Joe Schwartzbeck 35,770m 1,243f as a 7-year-old. Brown Swiss: Bell's Delight 21,500m 794f as a 4-year-old. Jersey: Wayne Fender 15,780m 759f as a 5-year-old. Guernsey: Unicorn Association 15,740m 775f as a 3-year-old. Ayrshire: Flint Hill Farm, 14,040m 574f as a 3-year-old.

The following is a listing of the top herds by age for fat corrected.



	Herds	Record
2 year old	Whitelyn Farms	23,800m 850f 24,067fcm
3 year old	Joseph Schwartzbeck	26,080m 1,021f 27,826cfm
4 year old	Joseph Schwartzbeck	30,930m 1,140f 31,851cfm
aged cows	Joseph Schwartzbeck	35,770m 1,243f 35,612cfm

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