

## Chinese Educators Visit Berks County Ag Businesses

BY VALERIE VAN TASSEL  
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DOUGLASVILLE (Berks Co.)— Five Chinese educators had a look at Berks County agribusiness and a taste of Pennsylvania Dutch hospitality earlier this month during a tour sponsored by the Berks Co. Chamber of Commerce Agribusiness Committee. The tour included stops at Reading Bone Fertilizer Co., Georgio Foods, F.M. Brown's & Son, and Ontelaunee Orchard. The delegation, from Beijing Commercial Management Cadre Institute (BCMCI), visited Delaware Valley College for 11 days, and according to Dr. John Avery, chairman of the agribusiness department at DelVal, the visit is part of an ongoing exchange of information between the two educational institutions.

"We are interested in their work in low-input sustainable agriculture and their methods of maximizing use of agricultural land. In Lancaster and Bucks counties, we are seeing increasing urbanization. We hope to learn how to produce high-value crops on expensive land. Vegetables and fruits are two primary crops grown in this setting in China. They also do a lot of interplanting such as soybeans and wheat," said Avery.

BCMCI train middle management officials in the commercial sector of China's economy including agribusiness managers. "The Chinese delegation hopes to learn more about our agriculture businesses, particularly our farm supply cooperatives and our distribution system. The Chinese have a great need to develop a free enterprise system," Avery explained.

Delaware Valley College decided to tour Berks County businesses because of a agriculture brochure developed by the Berks County Chamber of Commerce. "One of my students brought the brochure to class and we contacted the chamber for help," said Avery. The visit was

not government funded and the chamber of commerce and a number of local businesses sponsored the tour.

The visitors had impressive credentials. Sitting around the breakfast table at Michael's Restaurant exchanging business cards printed in both English and Chinese were Feng Chinglian, president of the BCMCI, Hong-Ye Liu, associate dean, Department of Grain and Economy Management; Yi Zhongkai, dean of the Economic Faculty; Zhang Pei Gong, office director; and Xiao Yi, interpreter. A number of local businessmen and dairy farmers were present to exchange thoughts and cards with the visitors including William Hughes and Douglas Darling of Meridian Bank; Morris Brown of F.M. Brown and Sons; Herbert Wetzel, the executive director of the Berks County Chamber of Commerce; Gary Fisher of the Farm Credit Office in Shoemakersville; and dairy farmers Ernie Miller and Roy Christman.

The Chinese found the American people were the high point of the trip. "The American people are warm and friendly," Chinglian said.

"The industry and agriculture are very developed here. You have much space here. There is lots of empty land," Liu added.

Miller, Christman and Avery all have visited China and were impressed with the Chinese people as well. "They are very friendly and interested in tourists," Miller said.

During their visit the Chinese had a chance to tour a number of places including the Capitol. "They certainly got a look at the freedom to dissent. There was a Vietnam vet on the steps of the Capitol protesting a lack of health care and another person demanding housing for the homeless," Avery explained.

The group was impressed with Dr. Dennis Avery of the Center for Global Food Issue. "He told



A delegation of educators, representing the Beijing Commercial Management Cadre Institute in China, toured four agribusinesses in Berks County earlier this month.

them things about their country that they didn't know. Dr. Avery feels that there are a lot of positive values coming out of China. They have made a conscious decision to import those items they can't produce efficiently and concentrate on those items that they can grow well," the college professor explained.

The visitors also took joy in some of the things we take for granted. "They really enjoyed the takeout food bar at Genardi's Super Market. You have to understand that they have very few food choices in China. K-mart with their thousands of products was also an exciting place to visit," Avery said.



William Angstadt, president of Reading Bone Fertilizer Co., shared information his business with the economic educators from China.

## Pork Industry Receives Nominations

DES MOINES, IA — The Pork Industry Nominating Committee has set a January 1, 1990, deadline to receive nominations to fill five three-year terms on the National Pork Board. The positions are currently held by producers Virgil Rosendale, Augusta, IL; Leroy Vollmer, Boonville, MO; Ritchie Jordan, Suffolk, VA; Jim McKee, Attica, IN; and importer representative Henry Greenebaum, Scarsdale, NY. All five are eligible for

re-election to the Board.

A total of eight persons will be selected by the National Pork Producers (Pork Act) Delegate Body from nominees submitted to the Nominating Committee by state pork producer associations, other farm organizations and individuals. Floor nominations may also be made at the Annual Meeting of the Pork Act Delegate Body, March 9, 1990, at the Galt House East in Louisville, Kentucky.

The Pork Industry Nominating Committee will consider the qualifications of all proposed candidates and will select candidates to participate in personal interviews in late January.

Nominations for the National Pork Board may be made in writing by January 1, 1990, to: Pork Industry Nominating Committee, Attn: Linda Riehm, P.O. Box 10383, Des Moines, IA 50306.

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