

# Pennsylvania Seedsmen Support Changes To Plant Protection Act

BY LISA RISSER

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — "Farmers selling protected seeds to other farmers has gotten to be a cottage industry, particularly in cotton and soybeans," said Jerry Peterson, president of American Seed Trade Association (ASTA), at the recent Pennsylvania Seedsmen's Association winter meeting.

At Peterson's urging, the members of the Pennsylvania Seedsmen's Association unanimously voted to support the ASTA in its push to get the Plant Variety Protection Act amended.

The proposed amendments would tighten up the loose wording of the right-to-save-seed or farmer's exemption. As it is currently written, "Seed can be sold under the counter," said Peterson. "In the Midwest, farmers have sold seeds of protected varieties to other farmers. This undermines the value of plant protection."

After the United States Department of Agriculture turned down a request for a language change to the Act, the ASTA formed a special committee to prepare amendments to the Act.

The amendments are to prohibit sales of protected seeds by the farm where it is grown; make it an infringement to buy protected seed for reproductive purposes without the owner's permission; and that anyone who cleans, conditions, or treats a protected seed variety must have the owner's permission before selling the seed or must return it to the owner after being processed.

Peterson reported that ASTA is looking for sponsors for the amendments as well as supporters. He urged the seedsmen to join in

this search.

## Celebrating 40 years

John Baylor, representing the Atlantic Seedsmen Association, Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Boyd Wolff, and Peterson joined to commend and congratulate the Pennsylvania Seedsmen's Association on its 40th anniversary. Wolff noted that the seed industry has changed drastically in the past 40 years and stated that the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture will continue to address seedsmen's concerns. "The PDA seed lab will continue to strive to process seed samples within 10 days," Wolff said. "In addition, we are looking at an amendment to the Seed Act for seed salesmen to be licensed."

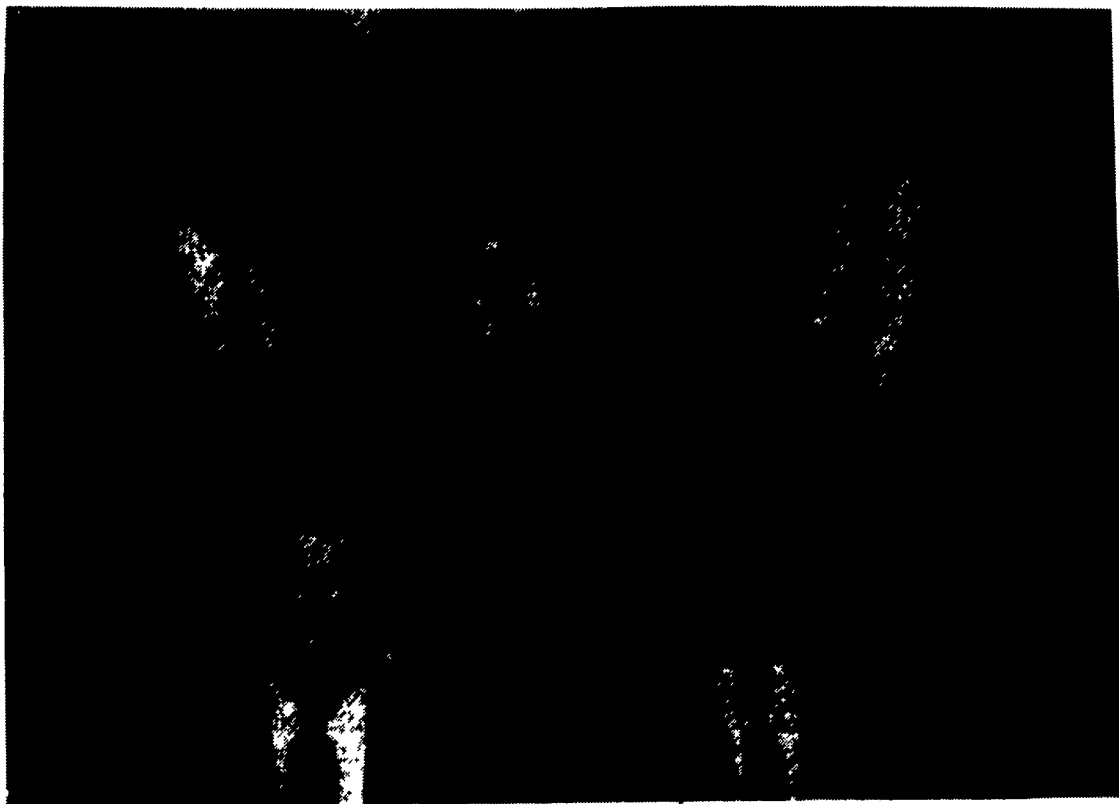
The proposed licensing, which is only in what Wolff terms the concerned stage, will protect dealers from being sold seeds that couldn't be resold. PDA is seeking comments from Pennsylvania seedsmen on licensing.

## Farm seed report

"The corn seed supply looks excellent industry wide this year," reported Tim Markovits of Pioneer. "Last year, because of bad weather conditions, we had reduced carryover seed, which prompted companies to plant larger than normal acreages to build back carryover supply."

Markovits predicted that corn acreage will be up slightly in Pennsylvania partially because the corn price has stayed relatively strong. He added that the seed price for corn, industry wide, will be basically the same or slightly lower than last year's prices.

The supply for soybean seeds is very good and the quality is excel-



The Pennsylvania Seedsmen's Association celebrated its 40th anniversary during its winter meeting in Lancaster last week. Joining in the celebration were, from left, back row: Boyd Wolff, Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture; Jerry Peterson, president of the American Seed Trade Association (ASTA); James Billings, regional vice president of the ASTA; front row: Charlie Abbott, a founder of the association; and Dennis Shoop of Agway, association president.

lent, according to Markovits. The planted acreage will be flat or down slightly compared to last year, and the seed cost will be lower than last year.

"Considering the weather conditions this past year, there will be more alfalfa planted this spring," predicted Markovits. "The seed supply for common varieties should be adequate to cover the

needs. Supplies on the new or proprietary varieties should be adequate to slightly less.

"If farmers are looking to plant alfalfa this spring, they should confirm their seed now," he warned. Production seed yields were reduced this year on newer varieties due to bad weather conditions, and the price will reflect this. The pricing on older or public var-

ieties will be stable or a little lower than last year.

Markovits added that the seed supply for forage grasses is excellent and the price will be down considerably.

In other business, members renewed Tim Markovits' board term, elected Fred Gaston and John Burpee as new board members.

## Maryland 4-H Member Is Presidential Tray Winner

COLLEGE PARK, MD — Michael T. Howell, 19, of Glenelg has become the third Maryland teen-ager in six years-- and the second from Howard County-- to win the prestigious 4-H silver tray award, given on behalf of the President of the United States.

Howell was one of 12 outstanding young persons who received the Presidential Award during a banquet that closed out the 68th National 4-H Congress last week (Dec. 2-6) at the Chicago Hilton hotel in Chicago. More than 1,600 of the nation's outstanding 4-H members were in attendance.

In addition to the silver tray, each of the Presidential Award winners received a \$1,500 scholarship from the Reader's Digest Foundation.

The 12 honorees were selected through personal interviews from among national winners of \$1,000 scholarships in various 4-H program areas. Seven of this year's national scholarship winners were from Maryland.

Interviews for selecting the Presidential Award winners were conducted by representatives of the Cooperative Extension Service from land-grant universities and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. These agencies supervise the nationwide 4-H program for nearly 5.5 million youth.

Earlier during this year's National 4-H Congress, Mike was honored as one of four national winners in the 4-H sheep program. That earned him a \$1,000 scholarship from the American Sheep Industry Association. Winners were selected by the Cooperative Extension System. Arrangements were handled by the National 4-H Council.

A 4-H member since the age of 9, Mike Howell credits the 4-H program with both developing his expertise in sheep production and stirring up an interest in intercultural affairs.

When three Costa Rican participants in the Central American Peace Scholarship Program came to Howard County several years ago, Mike honed his high school Spanish by helping the trio to understand U.S. culture and the English language. He later spent six months in Costa Rica as a participant in the International 4-H Youth Exchange program.

His acquired fluency in Spanish enabled him to serve more recently as interpreter and guide for several Extension agents from Brazil who toured the Howard County area-- even though their native tongue was Portuguese.

Now Mike is into Japanese studies and hopes to spend next summer participating in a cultural exchange program with that Asian country. A sophomore at Earlham College in Richmond, Ind., Mike has aspirations of becoming a professor of Eastern religions or philosophy.

Mike's mother, Peggy Howell, recalls that one of the memorable events during her son's 4-H sheep project years was hauling three purebred Shropshire ewes home from Harrisburg, Pa., in the back seat of the family Volkswagen after Mike and the county Extension 4-H agent had purchased them at a sale.

Mike's sister, Jeanne, has now taken over the sheep flock as her 4-H project. Their father, Thomas Allan Howell, is a computer specialist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural

Research Service at Beltsville.

In addition to sheep production and intercultural activities, Mike has been active as a junior 4-H leader, teaching basic sheep care to younger 4-H members. He has helped to train the county 4-H livestock judging team, and he has designed lamb and wool displays for the county and state fairs.

Mike and his fellow 4-H club

members also have been active in community service work, including a fund-raising event that netted \$3,000 to help pay hospital bills for a 4-H member in need.

Previous Maryland winners of the national 4-H Presidential Award have included Duncan Murrell of Rockville (Montgomery County) in 1985; Stephanie M. Pardoe of Lisbon (Howard Coun-

ty) in 1983, and Dwight C. Smith of Jefferson (Frederick County) in 1965.

Duncan is now a senior at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. Stephanie is an emergency medical technician for the Lisbon volunteer fire department, a business major at Howard Community College, and an employee at Sandy Spring National Bank in Ashton.

## Wayne DHIA Celebrates 63rd Year

HONESDALE (Wayne Co.)— The Wayne County Dairy Herd Improvement Association completed its 63rd year of milk testing on October 8, 1989, with 98 whole year herds. In addition, four owner sampler herds completed the testing year. During 1989, 4809 cows were on test in the county producing on the average 15,717 pounds of milk and 578 pounds of butterfat per cow. The number of cows on test was down 555 from the previous year, but production was at an all-time high with 298 pounds of milk and 22 pounds of butterfat per cow above the 1988 levels.

The top herd in milk and butterfat production was Kevin Burleigh, Pleasant Mount, with a record of 21,198 pounds of milk, 800 pounds of butterfat and 677 pounds of protein per cow. Charles P. Dennis Jr. of Honesdale had the top herd in protein production with 20,908 pounds of milk, 775 pounds of butterfat and 706 pounds of protein.

Other dairymen with herds in excess of 700 pounds butterfat per cow were Rowe Brothers, Honesdale, 756 and Gary Fielding, Lake Ariel, 736. Additional dairy herds

with protein production records in excess of 600 pounds were Kevin Burleigh, 677; Jack & Ella Chyle, Pleasant Mount, 642; Gary Fielding, 640; Rowe Brothers, Honesdale, 621; A & M Spangenberg, 618; Alton C. Olver, 617; Clearfield Farms, Honesdale, 613; Clyde Eltz, Pleasant Mount, 602; and Arthur Rutledge, 602.

The cow with the highest butterfat lactation record in the association for the year was "Verna 1" owned by Charles Dennis. She produced in 305 days 27,627 pounds of milk and 1143 pounds of fat. "Cricket," a cow owned by Clearfield Farms, had the top lactation milk record for 305 days. She produced 28,773 pounds of milk and 826 pounds of butterfat. The current record holder for the highest lifetime total in milk and butterfat production is "Satisfac" owned by Rowe Brothers. In 11 lactations she milked 241,563 pounds of milk and 8576 pounds of butterfat. The high quality milk award has been earned by James Slocum of Susquehanna. This award is presented to the herd owner with the lowest average somatic cell count for the testing

year, which in this case was 74,000. Other herds with somatic cell counts of 150,000 and below were Alton C. Olver, Honesdale, 107,000; Carl A. Robinson, 116,000; Kevin Burleigh, 117,000; William Taninies, 127,000; Charles P. Dennis Jr., 135,000; and Ken & Elaine Soden, 135,000.

Bear Brook Farm of Lake Ariel has been recognized for having the largest increase in milk production over the previous year.

The Wayne County Dairy herd Improvement Association held its annual meeting November 14 at the Fireside. David Soden, president of the group presided. Awards were presented and John Castrogiovanna, State Director, spoke on centralization. New directors elected for three-year terms were David Soden, Ellis Dix and Gary Rickard. Other directors are Harry Antonioli, William Bryant, Charles Dennis, Michael Nebzydowski, John Pawloski, James Slocum, Marilyn Shaffer, and Grant Teeple. Marilyn Johnson of Honesdale serves as secretary-treasurer.