

Soviet Agriculturists Bring Perestroika To Farm Show

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The openness sweeping the Soviet Union reached the Farm Show Monday afternoon when four Soviet ag scientists visited the Penn State University booth. The visit was part of a week long tour of Lancaster County, Harrisburg and University Park.

Their trip is the second step in a developing relationship between Penn State and the Siberian Branch of the V.I. Lenin All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences, known as VASKhNIL. Last April, three representatives of the College of Agriculture ventured to VASKhNIL's Siberian Branch, which is four time zones east of Moscow in Novosibirsk, or "New Siberia."

"Just three years ago this could never have happened," says Dr. Charles R. Krueger, associate

dean for research and member of Penn State's delegation. "With the new openness in superpower relations, we can visit and talk with each other. We have the opportunity to learn from each other." Dr. Paul J. Wangness, former head of Penn State's department of dairy and animal science, now regional director for the Capital Region of Penn State Cooperative Extension, and Dr. John M. Skelly, professor of plant pathology, also journeyed to Novosibirsk.

During this visit, Krueger hopes to identify potential areas of joint research with VASKhNIL. "The Soviets will have group meetings with faculty from the college. Through these dialogues, we hope to develop areas of mutual interest. But any project must be a two-way street so that we learn from them, as well as they from us," Krueger said.

The legal groundwork for collaborative study with VASKhNIL has been laid: the University of Alaska already has a cooperative agreement with the Siberian branch. "Alaska's a good fit, because it has a similar climate to Siberia's," Krueger said. "The things Penn State could do deal more with methodology and finding techniques that can work on our crops and livestock as well as theirs-- transferrable technology."

Dr. Gennady P. Gamzikov, director of the Altai Institute of Arable Farming and Plant Breeding, will head the VASKhNIL delegation. Gamzikov's interests include soil management systems, fertilization practices and plant breeding. Dr. Victor A. Bentz, deputy director of the Siberian Institute for Fodder Crops, is interested in all aspects of forage

production, from pasture management to effective storage.

Dr. Margarita V. Shternshis heads the Laboratory of Microbiological Methods at the Siberian Institute of Arable Farming and Use of Agricultural Chemicals. She is interested in integrated pest management, biological control and plant breeding for pest resistance. Dr. Victor G. Guglya, director of the Siberian Institute of Animal Husbandry, is interested in animal production techniques such as feeding, breeding and manure management.

"During the week, they will tour some of our facilities and talk with faculty members who share their research interests," Krueger said. "These dialogues will help both of our institutions know what we have to offer each other."

The Soviets' visit will continue

another dialogue-- a correspondence between students in Novosibirsk and the State College Area Junior High School. "While we were in the Soviet Union, we visited a junior high English class that Dr. Shternshis' son attended," Krueger said. "We brought back letters that the Soviet children had written."

Krueger gave the letters to his son, Brian, whose teacher passed them out to her class. Their replies, were sent to Novosibirsk last June. During her stay, Shternshis will visit the junior high to deliver personal responses from her son's class. "She'd like to visit my child's class, just as I visited her child's. I think both groups of children, like their parents, are learning how much they have in common," Krueger said.

Montgomery Co. Extension Meeting Announced

CREAMERY, PA (Montgomery Co.) — "Reflections on the Soviet Union" will be the subject of a slice presentation by Tom Leidy at the Montgomery County Cooperative Extension Annual Meeting on January 18, 1990.

The meeting will be held at the Montgomery County 4-H center on Route 113 in Creamery, Pennsylvania. A buffet dinner will be

served from 6:30 to 7:30 pm and a short program will follow. Also being honored at the dinner are 4-H livestock winners, 4-H cabinet members, and longtime extension board members. The public is invited to attend.

Tickets for the dinner are \$8.00 and are available from the extension office. Reservations may be made up to January 12 by calling 489-4315.

PDPP Holds Third Annual Meeting

(Continued from Page D12)

week.

Officials also said they would set a goal of uniting all four dairy promotion agencies in the effort to increase the sale of Pennsylvania dairy products.

The two-day meeting, held at the Grantville Holdiday Inn, focused on the outlook for the dairy industry in the 1990s and was highlighted with predictions by a Michigan State University professor and Boyd Wolf, secretary of the state Department of Agriculture.

Donald Duncan, chairman of the PDPP board replaces outgoing chair Paul Corbin. Duncan, who also serves on the executive board of the Regional Cooperative Marketing Agency (RCMA), said his goal is to continue to expand marketing efforts and to bring marketing agencies closer together.

"My personal goal is to continue the good work done by the two former chairmen. The tools are in place and the objectives are in place and with the agreements with the other two marketing programs we can continue to do good work," Duncan said. Good work, accord-

ing to Duncan, "... is to increase the bottom line for dairy farmers by increasing sales."

As far as continuing efforts at mutual cooperation among marketing agencies, Duncan said, "I'm going to do everything I can to bring in the fourth organization to share proportionately in the 10 cents coming in. We'll take it day by day and do the best we can."

Duncan added that PDPP is "... certainly welcoming suggestions from dairy farmers and those in the business to get ideas on how to better market their product."



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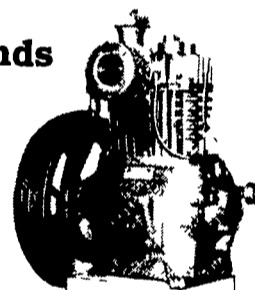
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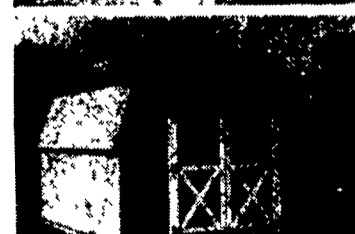
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