

Ayrshire Breeders

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and bulls born in the last eight years, your breed is actually ranked number two for predicted transmitting abilities for pounds, or protein dollars."

Witter encouraged breeders to get more involved in sampling bulls in order to be able to select from the best.

Witter, according to a Cornell publication, said "the Ayrshire cows are better as far as longevity, they live longer, produce longer, than all the other breeds," and this

translates into more dollars.

In Ontario, Canada, Witter states, milk will soon be bought on protein, indicating a trend in which Ayrshires are in a good position. Witter states that "if it ever comes to the fact that you're paid for volume of milk and protein premium alone, the Ayrshire cow . . . could be probably the most profitable or next to the most profitable breed."

Following Witter's speech, two inductions were made into the Hall of Fame. The Pennsylvania Ayrshire Hall of Fame commem-



Heather Becker, from Narvon Valley Farms, was crowned Pennsylvania Ayrshire Dairy Princess at the first Pennsylvania Ayrshire Convention. Alternate Amy Wolfgang (left) is from Bechtelsville.

Farm Forum

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zation that strives to develop young men and women into spokespersons for a new and vibrant segment of our economy. It is the hope of the Penn Manor FFA that the governor and his advisors will reconsider their decision to eliminate the funds allocated for the FFA and reinstate the needed funds so that the valued programs can continue to provide the needed resources that will enable young people to continue their development in the areas covered by progressive FFA programs.

Brian Sensenich
Manor Chapter
FFA President

Editor

On Gov. Casey's return trip to Harrisburg from the Lancaster "Capitol for a Day" extravaganza, he and his entourage stopped by the Earl Landis Farm to tour Mr. and Mrs. Landis' historic farmhouse and fine dairy operation.

And, although I congratulate the Landis' on receiving some of the respect and recognition they deserve, I question the governor's motives. Could it be that 1990 is a gubernatorial election year, and he is trying to whitewash his past neglect of the farming community?

Throughout the governor's "State of the Commonwealth" address, not once did he mention this state's leading industry. In his 1990-91 budget proposal, he cut the funding level for agricultural-related programs for the fourth year in a row. In past budgets, it was always up to the Republican members of the General Assembly to reinstate the necessary funding to keep Pennsylvania's farming programs up to standard.

As an example, in a year where Gov. Casey has declared a belt tightening of state funded programs, he has insisted on cutting

the entire \$33,000 appropriation for the FFA Foundation. This line item is a mere drop in the \$12 billion plus General Fund budget bucket.

Other budgetary scars for agriculture include:

- a \$90,000 cut for agricultural marketing programs in the Agriculture Department, at a time when we are trying to establish a global market,

- a \$40,000 cut from the state appropriation for the Milk Marketing Board, which may result in an increase in the various license fees,

- the elimination of a \$100,000 allocation for mushroom promotion,

- the elimination of a \$100,000 allotment for the apple marketing program, which is necessary to counteract the Alar scare,

- no new funding for the University of Pennsylvania New Bolton's animal diagnostic center programs, and

- no increase of much needed funds for technical and field staff positions for local conservation districts.

Another sign of the governor's contempt for the ag community is his allowing the state Agriculture Land Preservation Board to slip into non-existence. Without the governor urging Agriculture Secretary Boyd Wolff to establish permanent guidelines for the program, the board has lost its authorization to award funds to farmers who are agreeing to sell their land development rights to the state.

We must send Gov. Casey a clear message. Public relations and photo opportunities are important, but enough is enough. It is time to put your money where your mouth is and start funding agriculture programs as needed.

Rep. John E. Barley
Member, House Agriculture
Committee
100th Legislative District



Ralph Shank, Hagerstown, Md., runs unopposed for president of the National Ayrshire Association. The National Convention will be held April 11-14 in the Indianapolis.

orates "those who are no longer with us, those who in the past have made great contributions, not only to Pennsylvania Ayrshires, but to Ayrshires across the country as well."

First initiate was Percival Roberts Jr., owner of Penn Hurst Farms until 1938, when the herd was dispersed. Also inducted was Cuthbert Nairn of Blackwood Farm in Douglasville. A plaque will be kept in the Dairy Science Building at Penn State.

At 9 p.m. the Pennsylvania Spring Calf and Heifer Sale took place. This sale of 31 animals benefitted the Pennsylvania Ayrshire Youth Fund.

Saturday's events began with a youth breakfast and program, and a fitting and showing demonstration.

The Pennsylvania Ayrshire Association's annual meeting be-



Milt Brubaker, Litz, performs last minute secretary-treasurer duties before handing those responsibilities over to Earl E. Keefer, from Millersburg.

gan at 10 a.m. with John Reed Rodgers presiding.

Transfer of duties highlighted this meeting with Dwight Hunter stepping in for Paul Kemerer as vice president, and Earl E. Keefer accepting secretary-treasurer responsibilities from Milt Brubaker.

In sharing reflections, Milt Brubaker spoke of his 55 years with Ayrshires, nine years as secretary-treasurer, and 11 years of running Ayrshire sales for Pennsylvania organizations. Brubaker expressed a great deal of faith in the "younger fellows" in the organization and is ready to "sit back a little and cheer the younger folks on."

Elected as directors during the meeting were Dwight R. Hunter, Curt Sweinhart, Dale Mulfair, Bonnie Wentworth, Harold Kulp, Sharon Nolan, Mark Carter Jr., and Alvin String from New Jersey.

Serving on the Bull Committee will be Bonnie Wentworth and Robert Nolan, with Dwight Hunt-

er elected to the All American Dairy Show Committee.

Rodgers noted that Ralph Shank from Hagerstown, Maryland, will be running unopposed for president of the National Ayrshire Association next week in Indianapolis.

Members were reminded that Harold Kulp serves on the Ag Advisory Council at Penn State.

Other items of business included the Young Sire Program, the National Ayrshire Scholarship Program, the Ayrshire Sale Sweepstakes, and the 1992 Pennsylvania Ayrshire Futurity.

The National Ayrshire meeting will be held April 11-14, Pennsylvania Ayrshire Field Day is July 14 at the Ronald Martin farm in Mill Hall, and the Pennsylvania Elite Ayrshire Sale will be held on Tuesday, September 25 during the All American Show.

The convention concluded Saturday afternoon with the 1990 Pennsylvania Junior Ayrshire Show.

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