

State's Farmland Protection Bureau Gets New Director

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — State Agriculture Secretary Boyd E. Wolff announced today the appointment of H. W. (Fred) Wertz II as director of the Agriculture Department's Bureau of Farmland Protection.

Wertz, a department administrator for the past 15 years, has served as acting director of the bureau since November 1989. The agency administers the state's \$100 million program to stem the loss of prime farmland and assure its continued use of agricultural production.

"The preservation of farmland is a key to the economic health of Pennsylvania," Wolff said. "Agriculture is the state's No. 1 industry, and the state's 55,000 farm families are at the core of a huge production, processing, manufacturing, marketing and retailing complex that contributes \$38 billion annually to Pennsylvania's economy."

Wolff noted that the state's loss of 900,000 acres of farmland over the past 10 years is reflected in a decline in the number of farm families.

"Future losses could have a negative effect on the state's food production and hurt Pennsylvania's economy, he said.

"Fred Wertz, drawing on his long experience in administering agricultural programs, played a major role in structuring the Bureau of Farmland Protection two years ago and in drafting its regulations. In addition, he has served capably as acting director for the past seven months," Wolff said.

The bureau and the Pennsylvania Agricultural Land Preservation Board oversee the allocation of a \$100 million bond issue approved by the voters in a 1987 referendum. Counties will use the funds for the purchase of easement rights from owners of prime farmland who agree to maintain it for agricultural production.

To date, the board has allotted

\$45 million to counties across the state for the purchase of easements.

Wertz, 44, also administers the

state's Clean and Green Program, designed to reduce property taxes on agricultural land, and provides staff assistance to the Agricultural

Land Condemnation Approval Board, which reviews condemnations of agricultural land for highways and other public uses.

A 1967 graduate of Penn State University, he holds a bachelor's degree in forest science and a master's in plant pathology.

Cow Care, Livestock Comfort Are Concerns Of Summer

NICK PLACE

Susquehanna Co. Agent

Because heifers do not provide an immediate source of income, calves and heifers sometimes receive less attention and care than the milking herd. But improved young stock management and health care can pay long-term dividends.

A necessary prerequisite to a healthy heifer program is adequate care of the springing and freshening cow.

Cows should be dried off with approximately the degree of body condition they should have at calving. It is hard to take weight off a dry cow that is excessively conditioned at drying off.

Maintain adequate, but not excessive levels of calcium, phosphorus, selenium and fat-soluble vitamins during the dry period. Also maintain some grain intake during the dry period because this allows the cow to adapt more quickly to the milking cow ration after freshening.

Cows should be dry-cow treated at drying off and maintained in a clean environment since many new udder infections start during this time.

Calving areas should be clean and well bedded; straw bedding is most desirable. Calving pens should not be used for other animals. Be prepared to give clean, gentle assistance at calving time if it is needed.

In herds that have positive diagnoses of coliform or virus scours in young calves, vaccinate the dam in late pregnancy to provide colostral protection for the calf

against these diseases.

Check with your veterinarian to find out if these vaccinations should be used in your herd.

Consider Livestock During Heat Of Day

When it's too hot for people, livestock may be even more uncomfortable. A temperature level of 80 degrees F. may be the point to take action.

In most cases, good shade and plenty of water along with plenty of air circulation are the keys to animal comfort. Give dairy cows either shade with trees or artificial shade. If they are kept inside, mount extra fans to blow over their backs.

Exhaust fans with a total air

capacity of 200 cu. ft. per minute (cfm) per cow are recommended for winter ventilation in stall barns. These same fans can be used for summer use. Additional circulating fans of about equal capacity can be added in the litter or feed alley to augment the circulation. The general air movement should be down wind. This can be controlled by opening up on the windward side and closing next to the exhaust fans.

This movement of air discourages flies and makes an ideal place to feed cattle during the heat of day. In most cases, water sprays do not work well with cattle. They raise humidity—a major cause of cow discomfort.

Pity pigs when they are uncomfortably hot. Born without perspiration glands, there aren't many ways they can turn for cooling comfort. Here are some things you can do to keep your pigs cool during hot spells.

Provide a mist sprayer if hogs are on concrete. Turn it on whenever temperature climbs past 75 degrees. It needn't be fancy—a garden hose with good pressure will do the job for small pens.

Provide at least one drinking cup for every 20 hogs.

Provide 8 sq. ft. of shade for each 200 lb. market hog, 12-15 sq. ft. for mature sows and boars. Add 6 sq. ft. of extra shade per hog in confinement feeding setups.

State All American Judges Named

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)— Six nationally recognized judges from the South and Midwest have been selected for the 1990 Pennsylvania All-American Dairy Show here September 24-27.

Show Manager Charles Itle said the four-day show features six national breed shows, a first for the 27-year-old All-American.

The judges won't have an easy time of it, according to Itle. Show officials predict 2,500 cattle from 30 states and Canada will be competing for \$83,000 in premiums.

Judges and the breed shows are:

- Stan Hayes, of R and S Brown Swiss Farm, TN, will judge the Eastern National Brown Swiss Show, starting 9 a.m. September 25.

- William Etgen, of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, VA, is to judge the Eastern National Milking Show,

at 9 a.m. September 25. Etgen will also judge the Eastern National Ayrshire Show at 9 a.m. September 26.

- Norman Hill, MD, is judge of the National Guernsey Show, set to start 9 a.m. September 26.

- Larry Schirm, of Landmark Genetics, OH, is scheduled to judge the Middle Atlantic National Jersey Show, 9 a.m. September 27.

- James Patterson, OH, is judge of the Eastern National Holstein Show, 9 a.m. September 27. Niles Wendorf, WI, is to be associate Holstein judge.

Grand finale of the 1990 Pennsylvania All-American will be the Supreme Champion title, Itle said.

Pennsylvania All-American Dairy Show is sponsored by the Pennsylvania Dairy and Allied Industries Association in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Farm Show Commission and Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

For premium lists and entry forms, write Charles Itle, Manager, Pennsylvania All-American Dairy Show, Farm Show Complex, 2301 North Cameron Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408. Or call 717-787-2905.

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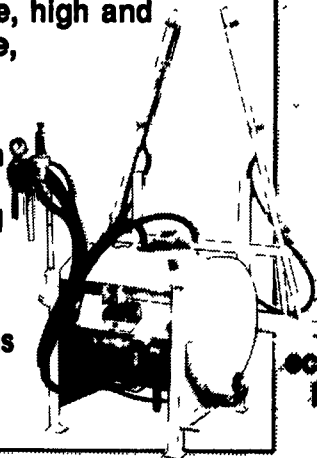


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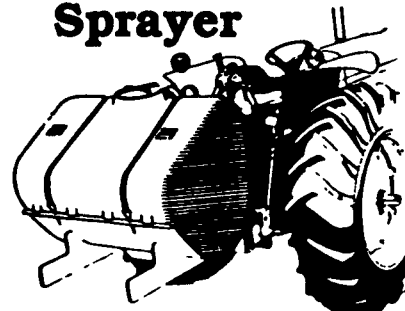
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