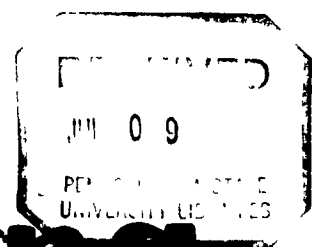




Lancaster Farming



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Chuck Groff talks farming with Barbara Hafer, Republican candidate for governor.

Hafer Endorses Grass Clippings Program And Pledges To Be Farm Advocate

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

QUARRYVILLE (Lancaster Co.) — After breakfast with agricultural leaders at Willow Valley Center on Thursday morning, Republican gubernatorial candidate Barbara Hafer visited the Robert Groff farm to endorse an innovative pilot program that diverts grass clippings from the landfill to fertilize farm fields.

"Here is a simple solution to a difficult problem," Hafer said. "If we don't take things out of our landfills, we will be buried in our own garbage."

The feasibility study to turn grass clippings into fertilizer for farmers was initiated by the Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority. Garth Becker, environmental planner, said the project includes three farms. And

the farmers are pleased with the early results.

Mike Brubaker, agronomist, who has been retained by the Authority to study the environmental impact of grass clippings on farm fields, reported that the grass had a higher nitrogen level than expected but the release into the soil for plant utilization was much slower than was anticipated. Brubaker reported that the studies look very favorable. The material flows very evenly through a conventional manure spreader and the material comes to the farm very clean. If this good report continues, the authority expects to have a workable plan in effect as early as next year.

Ken Rutt, Hafer's farm policy coordinator, said local farm leaders hope the recycling of grass clippings and newsprint onto the

farm will show an environmental good will by farmers and add to the farm economy as well.

"We don't want farms to be a dumping ground for every person in the state," Rutt said. "But if you pay to put recyclable materials in the landfill, maybe you need to compensate the farmer for using his land to help the environment."

"Through PDA and the state government, we can make sure the materials are safe to put on the land and that economic value is derived for farmers," Rutt said.

Hafer pledged that if elected in the fall, her administration would be an advocate for the farmer.

While here to receive input from the farm leaders about their concerns and questions related to farm representation in a Republican administration, Hafer took the

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Management Skills Need To Be Taught In Ag Classes

VAL VANTASSEL
Berks Co. Correspondent
BERNVILLE (Berks Co.) —

Berks agricultural businesses are putting a top priority on management skills according to a survey conducted by the Tulpehocken High School Agriculture Department. The survey, which took over two years to revise, send and compile, offered some insights into what producers and businessmen would like to have taught in high school agriculture.

A total of 44 of the 51 respondents agreed or strongly agreed that record keeping should be part

of ag. It was closely followed by leadership, a traditional FFA stronghold. There was a tie for third between computer and marketing training. Basic job skills, such as interviewing, placed fourth with sales principles rounding out the top five. There was only a difference of 11 responses between the first and fifth place topic area.

The producers and businessmen also endorsed classroom education in agriculture. "A total of 34 respondents stated that ag education would be beneficial for their

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Forage Day Classes Held At Eisenhower Farm

BONNIE BRECHBILL
Franklin Co. Correspondent
GETTYSBURG (Adams Co.) —

More than 100 farmers gathered at the farm of the late Dwight and Mamie Eisenhower June 14 for a Forage Field Day. The farm, now called the Eisenhower National Historical Site, is worked by a neighboring farmer

and overseen by the National Park Service.

Visiting farmers spent the day attending seven different agriculturally-related classes, ranging from Pasture Management to Hay Harvesting to the Safe Use of Farm Chemicals.

National Park Service officials

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Newly crowned 1990 Lebanon County Dairy Princess Terry Hill sits on her wicker throne, with the 1990 Little Miss Lebanon County Dairy Princess Katie Lentz, front; Alternate Diane Dice, left; and Alternate Stephanie Wagner, right. Turn to page B12 to read about the pageant.

Farmers Should Beware Of 'Oligopoly'

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — There were some loaded questions for Pennsylvania agribusiness at the PennAg dinner here Monday night. Questions such as: What is the future for farms? Will "big business" contract producers drown out the small producers? What is happening to the "small" packers?

H. Louis Moore, Penn State professor of ag economics, gave his personal views on some of these

questions. Moore's "futurist" forecasts portray an increasingly competitive economic climate that will demand increasing efficiency and customer relations for Pennsylvania agribusiness. Better business management will be vital to survival.

Moore spoke to about 200 millers, manufacturers, feed and fertilizer companies, grain brokers, seedsmen, food processors, agrilending institutions, and others at PennAg Industries Association's annual grain meeting.

Moore's future prognosis for

most of Pennsylvania agriculture is optimistic, because of the diversity of farming and better economic times for agriculture as a whole.

Packers exert control

However, a growing concern, according to Moore, is the increasingly large amount of control a few packers are exerting over a large portion of the cattle market.

"Agriculture is still our most competitive industry in this country," said Moore. "And despite all the things we hear that are going

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