

# Grangers Honor

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being made by a small group of activists, including the animal rights people, who could directly affect the future of agriculture. Some "take relationships between humans and animals very seriously — so seriously indeed that they believe animals have rights, including a very important right — not to be eaten by human beings." He said the animal rights/animal welfare debate is but one of "several hot issues" that could affect agriculture.

Curtis used the example of the Alar debate and how, by banning the once commonly used pesticide, some apple farms were driven out of business. "The apple industry lost \$100 million on that one. Hundreds of family-owned orchards went bankrupt."

Curtis mentioned a ballot initiative in California that, if passed next month, will phase out all pesticides in the state. And the issue of bovine somatotropin (BST) continues to rage "at this very moment across the country," he said. "BST is safe — the FDA has said so. After all, it is a natural hormone. But so what? The opinions of a dozen activists and a score of journalists are enough to overwhelm the evidence of hundreds of researchers and government watchdogs."

Curtis said that because the natural hormone is being synthesized using the tools of biotechnology, and because it's being injected into the cow, "all of a sudden people are afraid of it."

**Place for science**  
The dairy and animal science

head said there is a place for science "even in times of plenty. Agricultural scientists used to work mainly on productivity, efficiency, and economics. But it's all a new ball game. Now we work also on the scientific facts related to public issues such as animal welfare, pesticide residues, and BST in dairy cows. In this era of high tech in agriculture, it turns out there's a new place for science."

Curtis pointed out that few scientists work on productivity and efficiency, and more on "those aspects of agriculture and food that reassure our consumers of the nutritiousness and of the safety of this nation's food supply, of the well-being of farm animals in modern production systems, and of the environmental stewardship of the farming community."

But the problems of obtaining enough money to continue the efforts grow, according to Curtis. Public support of agriculture is decreasing steadily. "And it's really getting to a crisis point all across the country," he said.

The public that is making all the accusations and demanding answers "is also closing the valve on the flow of public money for the support of agricultural science," said Curtis. "The infrastructure of agricultural science is eroding in America right before our eyes."

### Needs support

To stop the erosion, according to Curtis, ag science needs support from outside agricultural science. "Organizations such as the Grange are likely contributors to this effort."

At the banquet, the Grange also announced the new Granger of the Year. Patricia Rudy, Sewickley, a member of the Mt. Nebo Grange in

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Laura McCordle, former Pennsylvania State Granger of the Year, left, congratulates Patricia Rudy, the new state Granger of the Year, at a banquet in West Chester Tuesday night. Rudy was honored for her 30 years of participation in and contributions to the Grange.



Dick Pennay, Pennsylvania state coordinator of the Conestoga Head Waters Rural Clean Water Program in Lancaster Co., left, was honored with a special recognition award at the Pennsylvania State Grange banquet. State Grange Master William Ringler presented the award.



John Scott, chief of the eggs, fruit and vegetable division of the Pennsylvania Dept. of Ag bureau of markets, left, was presented with a special appreciation award at the Pennsylvania State Grange convention banquet Tuesday night. William Ringler, Grange state master, presented the award.

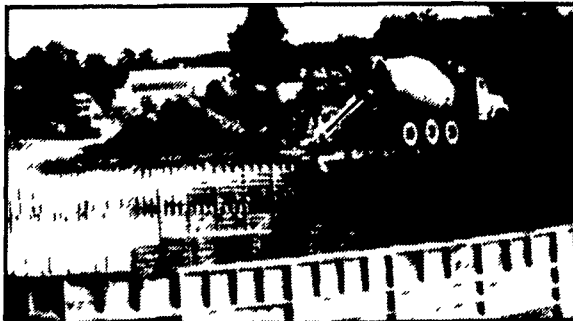
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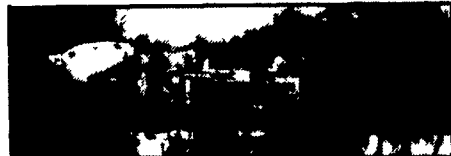


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