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AG-2000: Agricultural Legislative Agenda Proposed

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Efforts are being made by three state senators to make things easier for what is seen as the future of Pennsylvania agriculture.

A multiple-proposal agenda package called AG-2000 was revealed Tuesday during a press conference in the state capital held by three state Republican senators known for their activity with agricultural issues — Sen. Edward

Helfrick, Sen. Noah Wenger, and Sen. Roger Madigan.

The package of ideas and proposed programs to help farmers wishing to make a transition to alternative farming or nutrient management carries a futuristic

name — AG-2000: A Legislative Agenda For Pa. Agriculture.

The three objectives of the package are to address sustainable agriculture, ground and surface water protection, and farmland preservation, while not negatively affecting production farmers.

There are six proposed actions or initiatives in the package that the senators said should make it possible to reach those three goals:

- Expand the scope of the Chesapeake Bay Protection Program to the entire state and boost its funding.

• Create a Bureau of Sustainable Agriculture within the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA).

• Encourage participation in demonstration projects of sustainable agriculture to see if they can really work as opposed to relying on academic research results.

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PSU Advisory Council Topics: Cows Of Color, Funding, And New Building

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.)—The recently announced decision that colored breeds at Penn State would be displaced in favor of an expanded Holstein herd received the major discussion at the Penn State Advisory Council meeting here Wednesday. But state funding cuts and a tour of the newly completed Agricultural Science and Industry building were also included in the day's activities.

"The Jersey people are very offended because Penn State is

going to discriminate against the beautiful minority Jersey cow," said Sam Williams, elder statesman, Pennsylvania Jersey Cattle Club. "This is like doing research on peaches and then you only do it on apples. Holsteins and Jerseys are entirely different propositions.

"Another thing I don't like," Williams said in his dry, humorous sort of way. "Lancaster Farming talks about 'colored breeds.' That's an insult. I don't like the term colored breeds. You should call them cows of color. Or better yet, cows of vivid quality.

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Chester-Delaware Farmers Review Issues At Banquet

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
ATGLEN (Chester Co.) — "If your grandmother wanted to bequeath the farm to you, you couldn't afford it, because to pay for the real estate tax, you'd have to sell the farm," said Bob Lange, a member of the board of directors of the Chester-Delaware County Farmers' Association.

Lange, head of governmental relations for the association, spoke to about 150 members of the organization at their annual spring banquet last week. The organization is an affiliate of the Pennsylvania Farmer's Association (PFA) and American Farm Bureau Federation.

Lange and other committee members spoke about current issues at the county, state, and fed-

eral levels that affect members of the local PFA organization.

In particular, Lange spoke about several bills, particularly the Schulze Bill introduced in 1989. He discussed the impending introduction of a new federal estate tax bill for the family farm inheritance that may soon go before the federal House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate. The bill would require farms to have a conservation easement placed on them to make them exempt from the real estate tax.

Farm can benefit

Every farm in the area can benefit from the laws if the bill is passed, according to Lange. The new bill will exempt farmers from the estate tax so those who inherit

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John and Cindy Batchelder stand with one of their star Jersey cows, 8-year-old My-T-Fine MMC Grace, a 1988 Pennsylvania Farm Show grand champion. She classified Excellent 93 as a 6-year-old, and when she was 7-years, 6-months started a lactation that, after 354 days, produced 18,890 pounds of milk, with 920 pounds of fat and 757 pounds of protein.

Starpoint Farm: Young Rural Professionals Get Back To The Farm

VERNON ACHENBACH, JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
HENSEL (Lancaster Co.) — The Batchelders went looking for the land of milk and money.

They now live in southern Lancaster County.

John and Cindy Batchelder and their Jersey and Holstein herds have recently relocated from Chester County to Lancaster County. And although it was a move of only a few miles, they said it

appears to have taken them a long way toward reaching their goal of having a place of their own.

The young couple, both 30, are former rural young professionals, in that they worked for other people. Within the last several years, however, they returned to the profession of choice — dairy farming.

Southern Lancaster County may not be an area with guaranteed profits for dairying, but, according to John, who is originally from Ken-

tucky, there are very few places he's ever seen that have the dairy support services available.

And the milk check, in the area in which they now live, is generally a little higher than the rest of the country.

The couple is well known in certain circles. Perhaps they are more recognizable by their herd name, "Starpoint."

The name should be familiar to those who check Dairy Herd

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220 Head Compete At Md. Holstein Show

TIMONIUM, Md. — Maryland Holstein breeders held their 21st Spring Show here last week.

Judge for the 220-head show was Gary Darling of Charlotte, Vt.

The O.C. Smith Family of Jefferson dominated the calf classes and was junior champion and reserve in the Junior Show, along with winner of Junior Best 3 Females. Gay Ridge Holsteins, with Kingstead, had the open junior champion and reserve.

The cow class winners were spread out. Matt Lager was pleased

to be grand champion and best bred & owned of the Junior Show, while Gay Ridge, along with Kingstead and George Debnam, won the Open Show with a 4-yr. old bred by Sam Davis. Reserve was Clay Smith and David Ifert's aged cow, a "Phil" daughter. In fact, all but one of O C S Dairy's show winners were either sired by or out of one of his daughters.

The Smith Family of My Ladys Manor Farm, Monkton, was both premier breeder and premier exhibitor again this year.

The first 3 placings in each class are as follows:

Intermediate Calf (Juniors Only)- 29- 1. O C S Dairy Sammys Stacy, Crystal Smith-BBO, 2. Windy-Knoll-View DM Patti-et, Amy Lager, 3. Gay Ridge Astro Jet Susan, Robin Cotter

Senior Calf- 53- 1. O C S Dairy Phil Dednah, Crystal Smith-BBO, 2. Derrwyn Threat Lady-et, Derrwyn Holsteins, 3. Rock-Hil-Val S-Wind Flame, Andrew & Voss

Summer Yearling- 20- 1 Harvue Phil Sandy, O Clay Smith, 2. Unicorn Blackstar Hannah, Mark Lager, 3. Md-Dun-Loafin Marx Holly, Shannon Harrison- 2nd Jr., 4. Len-Land-Acres Majesty Shan, Len-Land Acres-BBO

Junior Yearling- 13- 1 Windsor-Manor Al Mindy, Jason & Donna Myers-BBO, 2. O C S Dairy Raz Carla, Crystal Smith, 3. Terra-View Astro Jet Shirli, Mark Lager

Intermediate Yearling- 13- 1 Gay Ridge Marlin Pearl, Gay Ridge Holsteins-BBO, 2. O C S Dairy Count Cecilee, Crystal Smith, 3. Peace & Plenty Buck Kizzy, Wyatt Griffin-

2nd Jr.
Senior Yearling- 12- 1 Lealand Ultimate Faith, Gay Ridge & Kingstead; 2. Brook-Lodge Calypso Gal, C Renn & Thomas G Remsburg-BBO, 3. Ladys-Manor Vanna

Dee-et, Harold Smith, 4. O C S Dairy Phil Catalina, Crystal Smith

Junior Champion- (Jr) O C S Dairy Count Cecilee, Crystal Smith, (Open) Lealand Ultimate Faith, Gay Ridge & Kingstead

Reserve Junior Champion- (Jr) O C S Dairy Phils Dednah, Crystal Smith, 2 (Open) Gay Ridge Marlin Pearl, Gay Ridge Holsteins

Junior Best 3 Females- 4- 1 Crystal A Smith, 2 Windsor Manor, 3 Wayne & Cindee Savage

Dry 3 & 4 Yr. Old- 6- 1 Md Maple Dell SWD Crissy-et, Tanya Lager - TPW, 2 Hobbie Hill Val Liza First Gal, Amy Savage 2nd Jr - BBO, 3 Peace & Plenty Starbuck Marcella, Joe Schwartzbeck & Family

Dry Aged Cow- 7- 1 Savage-Leigh Rorae Chrissy, Chip Savage - BBO, 2. O C S Dairy Phils Candy, Crystal Smith- 2nd Jr., 3. Del Myr Valiant Maggie, Jason & Donna Myers Jr. 2 Yr. Old- 3- 1 Derrwyn Inspiration

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