

Farm Support

(Continued from Page A1)

... rural community in Pennsylvania."

Amos Funk, who operated the Amos Funk farm on South Duke Street in Millersville until a recent retirement, said that "Dick Thornburgh is not a promiser. He's a doer. His record proves that."

According to Funk, in the two years of the governorship of the state, Thornburgh introduced "four bills important to agriculture." Those include:

- Act 100, passed in 1979, the Farmland Condemnation Act, which makes it much more difficult to condemn farmland in Pennsylvania.

- Act 179, 1980, which exempts farm corporations from the corporate stock finance tax. This tax, according to Funk, made it much more difficult to form farm family corporations.

- Act 39, 1980, which made it impossible for aliens or foreign countries to purchase more than 100 acres of farmland in Pennsylvania.

- Act 207, 1980, a farmland-use value act for certain tax purposes.

According to a statement prepared by the Thornburgh For Senate Committee, other programs initiated by Thornburgh include:

- Farmland preservation programs. He signed legislation to keep the state's 58,000 family farmers in business. He reformed the inheritance tax law to value farm property at use, rather than market value, and established a \$10 million Family Farm Development Program to provide loan guarantees and interest deferrals for family farmers.

- Promote ag land. Thornburgh established a Prime Agricultural Land Policy by Executive Order, secured a "Right To Farm" law, established ag districts, and created an Agricultural Land Condemnation Board.

- Sales of ag products. Thornburgh initiated the successful "We're Growing Better" and "Keystone Pride" marketing campaigns. Thornburgh established the Farm Market Loan Program to build or improve more than 60 farmer-owned markets through the state.

Next generation of farmers. Thornburgh established a Governor's School on Agriculture to provide advanced ag training to high school students, and promoted an agricultural curriculum in the public schools. This is program "I was particularly proud of," said Thornburgh.

Addressed animal health problems. The former state governor established an Animal Health Advisory Committee to improve the state's disease control and animal research programs, and solved the avian influenza problem.

"In fact, by the time I finished eight years in office, we had passed some 65 pieces of legislation that were designed to preserve prime agricultural land, preserve the family farm, and promote growth in our agricultural economy," said Thornburgh.

Thornburgh said he was proud of the fact that, during the two campaigns, he had such strong support from the farm community.



Fred Funk, owner of Funk's Farm in Millersville, left, hands a special market basket to former Pennsylvania Governor Dick Thornburgh, right, while Amos Funk looks on. Thornburgh addressed supporters at Funk's Farm as part of the former governor's campaign for the U.S. senate.

He emphasized the importance of listening and learning in the public service.

"Dick Thornburgh has always been a friend of agriculture," said Funk in the statement. "He is a

strong supporter with a proven record of helping family farmers and agribusiness."

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