

Mifflin County Farmers' Association Adopts Policies

GAIL STROCK
Mifflin Co. Correspondent
PENNS VALLEY (Mifflin Co.)— Fifty members and guests attended the Mifflin County Farmers' Association's Annual Meeting, held at the Penns Valley Christian Retreat Center to hear Fred Kerr, a member of the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association relations department, speak on vocational agriculture programs. Kerr, one of 13 people appointed by the governor to serve on the PA Advisory Council for Vocational Education, challenged the group to help form a working partnership between school board members, students, teachers, administrators, counselors, business and industry leaders, and parents to develop a successful vocational program, including vocational agriculture.

"We brag about one in five jobs being related to agriculture, yet only a small percentage of these jobs are in production agriculture," Kerr said when speaking of educating and training students for jobs and the disadvantage vocational students have in being isolated from regular academic classes. "We are now working with the Department of Education on the integration of academic and vocational programs. Our kids are so academic oriented. We need to get the academic people to become more practical, or more applied. And we need to get vocational programs more academic. They need to be able to do the job, but by the year 2000, for example,

90% of the people will have to be computer literate. We have computer assisted drafting. We need to become more applied in the academic and more academic in the training. So we're looking more at integrating the two."

A business meeting followed Kerr's question and answer period. Policy development chairman Dave Esh presented seven policy resolutions for discussion and adoption. The following six policies were adopted:

1. We recommend that enforcement of Pennsylvania's Nutrient Management Ordinance be transferred to and maintained within the PA Department of Agriculture not the PA Department of Environmental Resources.

2. Due to the ineffectiveness of present-day mandatory recycling, we recommend the returnable

beverage container deposit can be enacted.

3. We recommend that PFA investigate the possibility of the implementation of a national health policy.

4. We recommend an overhaul of the light and sound system in the courtroom.

5. We recommend that taxpayers' dollars not be used to bail out the Pennsylvania Lottery Fund.

6. To regulate the use of LCV's

(long combination vehicle), we recommend that the current state regulations on gross weight and maximum length be maintained.


A policy limiting legislator's terms failed to be adopted while another policy, requiring proof of passing a hunter's safety course before buying a hunting license,

was referred to the county board for more information. Two written policies were also adopted, one requesting that the activities of the state budget committee be open and subject to the same guidelines as other public bodies, with respect to the State Sunshine Law, and another requesting stiffer

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Fred Kerr



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