

# PFU Opposes H.B. 496

**HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)** — The Pennsylvania Farmers Union (PFU) submitted testimony to the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee opposing House Bill 496, also known as the Nutrient Management Act.

Allen Deiter, immediate past president of PFU, expressed the concerns of the union at a hearing held recently in Bloomsburg.

Deiter listed the PFU's concerns as follows:

- The study should target areas of known or suspected problems and a statewide study would not be prudent use of state funds.
- PFU is concerned about regulating the time and manner in which manure is spread. Agriculture's varying enterprises and Pennsylvania's diverse topography and weather conditions could

produce nightmares.

- House Bill 496 does not consider the impact on the economic state of family farmers.
- Proposed legislation addresses density criteria but mandates all agriculture operations to develop and implement a plan. It seems foolish to develop a plan if a farmer has 10 cows on 100 acres.

This is a waste of time and financial resources, according to PFU.

- Fees. Another cost to the farmer with no regard for his income, said PFU.
- Establishment of advisory board. As presently outlined, we have the probability of two farmers on a nine-member board that will promulgate and implement

regulations that could be a financial and operational millstone according to PFU. This is not tolerable. Farmers should have an equitable input on the implementation of agriculture programs.

Deiter also said, "The proposed legislation has some merit in advocating the study of some of the other probable causes of stream pollution. We believe agriculture has too long been a whipping boy for the problem at hand."

"There is, I believe, one other major problem that is not being addressed. Reports that I have seen indicate many of our towns and cities have the storm drains leading to the sewer drains," he said.

In times of heavy rainfall, the sewer plants cannot handle the extra inflow and everything goes straight through to the stream," said Deiter. "It would cost some towns millions to correct the problem, so I suppose it is easier to blame a farmer. I have been told when it goes through the sewage plant in times of heavy runoff it is diluted. My answer is, so is the runoff from the manure the farmer spreads on his fields."

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## Berlin FFA Awards Members



From left, Doyle Paul, chapter advisor; Andrew Deeter, 37th honorary member, Steve Landis, chapter president; and Chris Reichard, state FFA treasurer.



From left, Bill Hersch, Connie Cooney, and Matt Johnson received one-acre corn growing awards from W.J. (Dub) Brant of the Pioneer Seed Co. Cooney stood in for her son, Michael, who is in Germany.

**GAY N. BROWNLEE**  
Somerset Co. Correspondent

**BERLIN (Somerset Co.)** — Christopher Reichard, Chambersburg, the state FFA treasurer, was guest speaker at the Berlin-Borthersvalley FFA annual banquet. He noted in his remarks that Pennsylvania governor Robert P. Casey proclaimed the State FFA Week in conjunction with National FFA Week.

"We're very proud as a state association to have this honor bestowed upon us," he said.

Using apples to illustrate his message about FFA members, Reichard said, "Most people know what the rotten apple is, except that in this chapter, I don't think there are any."

Like the apple, FFA members have roots, trunk, and branches by which they are nourished, Reichard said, comparing those components to family, school leaders, and community organizations.

He said there are green apples, good polished apples, and rotten apples. The green apples are the FFA Greenhands, while the good polished apples are those members who have learned well under the leadership of persons such as Doyle Paul and Bonnie Murphy of the local chapter.

"FFA gets its reputation from apples it produces," said Reichard. "Each member has to decide what kind of apple he's going to be."

The 186 banquet guests were also entertained by the state demonstration team, who whipped up homemade ice cream. The gold medal winning team consisted of Bill Hersch, Steve Landis, and Eric Landis.

Calling their demonstration "a treat for all ages," the team explained each ingredient and piece of equipment they used. They also listed alternative methods of making homemade ice cream. (Their ice cream was made in a hand-cranked freezer.)

State FFA gold medal winners were Jacob Baughman, Jr. public speaking; Steve Landis, conservation public speaking; Matthew Welch, FFA public speaking; Matthew Johnson, livestock judging; James Burkholder, state ag record book; and Steve Landis, state ag record book (two categories).

State silver medals went to Jeremy Hay for livestock judging; Jason Baughman, dairy cow record book contest; and William hersch, on-farm work experience.

State bronze medals went to Matthew Foor for livestock judging; Daniel Delancy, on-farm work experience; and Matthew Johnston, swine breeding.

Hoffman's Nursery received a state FFA Citation Award.

Keystone Farmer winners were James Burkholder, Daniel Delancy, William Hersch, and Steve Landis. American Farmer pins were given to Keith Leydig, Philip Martz, Corey Will.

Chapter Farmers were Jason Baughman, Doug Bell, Barry Benning, Kenreth Benning, Lonnie Coughenour, Allen Durst, Michael Griffith, Chad Hyatt, Eric Landis, Bryan Sarver, Jonathan Smiley, and Chad Webreck.

Chapter scholarship pins and certificates went to Jason Baughman, James Burkholder, Jeremy Coughenour, William Hersch, Steve Landis, Jonathan Smiley, and Matthew Welch.

County first place winners in record book keeping con-

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