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Cuts In Ag Research Funds May Hurt Farmers



The Pennsylvania Senate Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee and the Agricultural Issues Forum met Wednesday morning to speak about a variety of issues. Speaking at the meeting were, left to right, Jay Rush, CEO, York Farm Credit; Dwight Frymyer, Juniata dairy farmer; Jay Howes, manager of ag services for the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce; and Ken Rutt, Lancaster dairy farmer. Photo by Andy Andrews.

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Pennsylvania agriculture will take the brunt of recent state cost-cutting measures, particularly ag research funding, which could dig into the pockets of farmers, according to one ag industry representative.

In addition, proposed nutrient management legislation, unless key wording is changed, could also run many farmers out of business.

Those were the key issues bandied about during a Wednesday morning meeting at the state capitol. The Agricultural Issues Forum and the Pennsylvania Senate Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee met to discuss issues pertinent to area farmers. (The presentations do not represent the views of the Ag Issues Forum, but were used to stimulate discussion.)

Presentations on agricultural competitiveness, ag regulations in the bank lending environment, proposed nutrient management legislation changes, and ag research cutbacks were provided.

Agriculture hurt

According to Jay Howes, manager of agricultural services for the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce and Industry, agriculture will be hurt by the actions of the Governor's office in placing \$1.4 million of ag research funds "into so-called 'budgetary reserves.'" According to Howes, this represents 57 percent of the money originally allocated and is in addition to cuts in research dollars to the University of Pennsylvania, Penn State University, and ag extension services.

"The cumulative effect of such (Turn to Page A26)

Poultry Federation Takes Measures Against Salmonella Enteritidis

LOU ANN GOOD

Lancaster Farming Staff
LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Poultry producers continue to grapple with salmonella outbreaks that appear to be concentrated in the northeastern part of the U.S. The Pennsylvania Poultry Fed-

eration sponsored a meeting for poultry producers to give them the latest information on preventive measures to stop the spread of the bacteria, which can cause food poisoning if eggs or poultry are not handled properly. If eggs and poultry are properly cooked, the bacter-

ia does not harm people.

At the afternoon meeting, Dr. Sherrill Davison from the University of Pennsylvania, said that an effective control program is multifaceted and must include clean birds (salmonella free from birth), cleaning and disinfecting of poultry

houses, rodent control, and vaccination.

The Federation is concerned with the future of poultry health and wants to prevent SE rather than waiting for outbreaks and then scurrying around to do something about it.

A preventive program is being implemented in the area. It is a voluntary program among producers, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, and the USDA.

Participants need to agree to test the environment and the mice in (Turn to Page A33)

Board Of Education Ignores Agriculture

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Agriculture didn't get the academic recognition from the State Board of Education that was sought recently by the Pennsylv-

nia Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association (PVATA) and several agriculture- and education-focused legislators.

Whether or not the board changes course will become apparent with the results of meetings

this past week to finalize its education regulations.

Specific changes to the regulations were proposed to the board by the PVATA for several months, but only recently was the issue discussed by the board.

The issue again failed to come up for discussion against the competition for board recognition by hundreds of representatives from different interest groups, who filled the halls outside the board's 12th floor meeting room in the fed-

eral building in Harrisburg.

Bipartisan letters endorsing the PVATA changes were sent to the board from the agricultural and rural affairs committees in both the House and Senate. Also bipartisan (Turn to Page A23)

Awards, Reports Given At State DHIA Convention

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor
HERSHEY (Dauphin Co.) — To help the Pennsylvania DHIA annual meeting over the undercurrents

of dissension in member ranks caused by the centralization process, humor was added to the format of the two-day program last Friday and Saturday in the conven-

tion center.

A cowboy/cowgirl theme set in an early western town, climaxed at the evening Texas bar-b-que and hoedown. The meeting progressed

from the arrival of "new settlers at the OK Coral" to the branding of program speakers with telltale names like Sheriff Matt Dillon, Brander Tex, Deputy Chester and

Doc Holliday.

In addition, a bevy of dairy princesses rode into town to gun down malnutrition and every other problem associated with the failure to drink milk and eat yogurt, butter and cheese.

Indications of the division between the polarized opinions within the organization surfaced only briefly several times during the official meeting. But some private discussions centered on the desire of segments of members to leave Pennsylvania DHIA to move their records and business to other neighboring labs and processing centers.

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Among the management award winners at the state DHIA annual meeting are from left, Jerry Krone; Byron, Leslie, Brandon, and Pat Hunsinger; Lynita and Jay Vall; Bob, Tra-

vis, and Marica Trotter; Susan Mease; Jim, Mary Lou, Casey, Tommy Jill, Abby and David Trotter.

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