

# Mifflin Extension

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for serving at least 5 years on the Extension Committee.

While the 1992 Annual Report was distributed, Filson drew attention to staff reports and program highlights, the Mifflin County Census Profile, the College of Agricultural Sciences 1993 Strategic Plan Update, and the Report of the College Update, and the Report of the College Future

Committee, on which Filson had the honor of serving.

Regional Director Mary Jo Depp recognized Deb Durst for 5 years of service as secretary in the Mifflin County Extension office, and Jane Beightol, Family Living Extension Agent, for 20 years of service.

In introducing Dr. Hood, Filson stated that with research, extension, and resident education all

## Convenience Rather Than Diet

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products should be used in a beneficial way for agriculture, in a productive way," said Byrne. Up until 1985, the company was treating the products as waste material, and much of it ended up in landfills. "But (Herr) always thought it should be able to be used and, in particular, in the beef cattle."

So Herr purchased the farm. At the time, Byrne's family moved from operating an Angus semen supply business in Virginia and took over the day-to-day operations of Herr Angus. Not long after, the seedstock operation was dissolved and the way was made for only feeder cattle.

About 80 percent of the cattle are sold to Moyer Packing and the remainder to local markets and as freezer beef.

As for the feed, the unused potatoes are "primarily an energy source," said Byrne. "It runs very similar in energy value to corn silage." The feed is given on full feeder at a level of 15 pounds per head per day, which translates into about 6-7 dry pounds per day.

### Mix provides energy

The "party mix," from a feed standpoint, according to Byrne, provides more energy than corn because of the oil content.

Whatever feed materials remain are sold to nearby farms.

Water is used at Herr Snack Foods at a rate of 100,000-110,000

gallons in peeling 400,000-500,000 pounds of potatoes per day. A special water treatment plant filters and prepares the water for potato washing. The used water is piped and used to irrigate the fields on the farm. The water cycles through the ground back to the wells, from which it is pumped and used again.

That kind of "long-range" planning is part of the Council's objectives as well.

### Long-range plans

"One of the things that the Pennsylvania Beef Council has taken on is the last year or so is a long-range planning committee, where a lot of things are being looked at for long term that would help other cattlemen to get more bang for their buck," he said. One of those areas is helping cattle producers utilize more existing grass lots, of prime consideration because of their abundance in the state.

Also, an issues management task force has been put together using selected "issues experts" as ports of call, so to speak, for concerns raised about the beef industry.

But providing the all-important beef promotional efforts will top the list of concerns for the future.

"The total focus of the Pennsylvania Beef Council is to spend that dollar checkoff in a way that will promote the sales of beef," Byrne said. "That's our goal."

ving for limited resources and monies, Extension has fared well under Dr. Hood's leadership.

Hood then elaborated on the future of Extension, how society has changed, and what Extension's response should be to that change in the make-up of clientele.

To be effective, Extension programs must focus on issues that are important to the 12 million rural and urban people across Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania has the largest rural population of any state in the Union (3.7 million), but also has the 4th largest urban area. This presents a serious challenge to creating Extension programs that target the general public.

As for agriculture, Hood said Extension must help agricultural producers be more efficient managers. Programs should address current issues such as pest management, governmental regulations, neighbor relations, and environmental issues.

Hood emphasized Extension's tremendous potential in reaching the 125,000 kids in 4-H and their friends with programs on self-esteem, leadership, and life skills. Youth development, Hood said, is an area Extension must be tuned in to.

Community and economic development is particularly important in rural areas as well as leadership development.

As for families, Hood relayed these changing facts. In the 50s, families consisted of one wage earner with both resident parents.

Now, only 8% fit the description. Extension needs to address family social and economic well-being issues sensitive to families in various situations.

Hood also mentioned water and food supply and quality as current issues.

Hood elaborated on the College Future Committee and its report. Fromed in response to the President of Penn State's request to modify or eliminate non-critical programs across the university, the College Future Committee's purpose was to develop a plan for reshaping the College to enable it to bring programs in balance with appropriated resources.

The Committee recommended:

- Reducing or modifying programs duplicated by the private sector, in other states, or by public agencies such as exercise programs, elderly caregiving, dairy genetics, housing, weightloss, tourism, and more.

- Interest in minor commodities will be reduced or modified, such as domestic game birds, income tax preparation, rabbits, irrigation, textiles, and others.

- Programs will be modified, reduced, or eliminated where resource allocations are disproportionate to the requirements of other priority programs or where appropriate cost sharing is not provided, such as drinking water clinics, farm safety, 4-H activities and events, poultry, school enrichment, and small fruit production, except grapes.

The College Future Committee

recommended enhancing programs that focus on commercial agriculture, rural economics and community development, youth development, and/or resource-stressed and minority families and individuals. These include Hispanic-American/Latino family programs, leadership development, resource-stressed/low literacy audiences, youth development, animal housing, forest resources, ornamental horticulture/floriculture, rural economics and community development, volunteers, and water quality.

Hood stressed the need for rural economics and community development because \$62 of every dollar of income comes from off-farm sources.

In other areas, Hood expressed concern for timely research upon which Extension programs are based, and relevant undergrad education to attract students. In the mid 50s, 80% of the undergrads in agriculture at Penn State were from farm backgrounds. Now only 15% have ag backgrounds.

Hood asked for more acceptance of technologies in delivering educational programs such as computer networks and satellite technology, as well as cooperation in drawing programs from other states and from specialized extension agents.

The event concluded with election results with Joan Yoder as President, John Czerniakowski as Vice President, Vivian Mowery as Secretary, and Helen Kirk as Treasurer.

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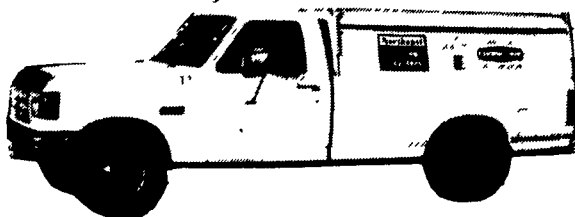
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