

Students Show Responsible Use Of Animals

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.)—Students for the Responsible Use of Animals (SRUA) did their part to help give the good news of farming to thousands of people from off the farm who stopped by their display in the upper floor of the new building last week at the Farm Show. Jodie Eberly, president of the student organization on the Penn State campus, said their goal is to educate people about the farm and provide information that refutes information that animal rights organizations distribute on campus.

Students from Delaware Valley College were also helping at the booth. Their display showed the many uses of animal products that benefit the average non-farm person.

Eberly said the student organization was formed two years ago and became an official organization last year.

"Our purpose is education," Eberly said. "We want to educate the community and other students what happens on the farm. Students react with a lot of surprise when they are shown the facts. The animal rights organizations are good at getting their literature out, and when we give tours of the livestock and dairy facilities, students react with 'Oh, is this what happens,' and we have a lot of positive response."

"The animal rights groups hit on 'Factory Farms,' but we show that most farmers care for their animals and are using humane methods to care for their animals."

Tracy Thrapp, freshman at Delaware Valley, said they also encourage students to become acquainted with agriculture. "There are students on campus who don't think

cows should be in halters," Thrapp said. "But we try to educate them through our farm/city programs and the annual A-Day that is devoted to agriculture."

Both students agreed that farmers cannot remain passive. "Animal rights organizations are very powerful and influential because the majority of the people don't have a real basis to judge the information they get from these groups," Eberly said. "We as agriculturalists need to tell people what is going on. We need to be proactive in our education efforts."

Eberly said SRUA does not usually become involved in confrontation with animal rights groups on campus. This generally ends in shouting matches and little education is accomplished. However, in the spring, when animal rights groups plan to sponsor a "meat out" day, SRUA plans to hold a meat appreciation day at the same time.

"I don't think there is any system in agriculture that can't be



Jodie Eberly, left, Penn State senior, and Tracy Thrapp, Delaware Valley freshman, present information for the responsible use of animals.

improved," Eberly said. "There are always a few people who don't

take care of their animals as they should. But the opponents of agri-

culture use these exceptions to give the appearance of the majority.

Friends Of Tobacco To Meet

PARADISE (Lancaster Co.) — A coalition of tobacco supporters in the Lancaster County area has organized a "Friends of Tobacco" meeting and luncheon to be held on Thursday, January 28 at the Paradise Tobacco Auction Warehouse at 9 a.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to highlight the important contributions tobacco makes to the regional economy and to show support for continued unity among the tobacco community.

Guest speakers include Farrell Delman, president of the Tobacco Merchants Association; Thomas Ryan, chief executive officer of

the Helme Tobacco Company; Joseph S. Helewicz, vice president of corporate affairs, Brown and Williamson Tobacco Corporation; and Neal Bush, Pennsylvania deputy secretary of agriculture. Leaders from throughout the United States tobacco industry are expected to be in attendance.

Farrell Delman, president of the Tobacco Merchants Association, will discuss "The Economic Impact of the Pennsylvania Tobacco Industry." The Tobacco Merchants Association is the information and data center for the world tobacco industry.

Thomas Ryan, chief executive

officer of the Helme Tobacco Corporation, will discuss the cigar Pennsylvania tobacco type 41 chewing tobacco.

Joseph S. Helewicz, vice president of Brown and Williamson Tobacco Corporation, will discuss "The Future of the Pennsylvania Tobacco Industry."

Neal Bush, Pennsylvania deputy secretary of agriculture, will be on hand to bring greetings and to offer remarks on the Pennsylvania tobacco industry.

Mike Brubaker, president of Brubaker Agronomic Consulting, will serve as meeting moderator.

The meeting is sponsored with

funds donated by area businesses and individuals who support or derive their income, either directly or indirectly, from the tobacco industry in Pennsylvania. Contact the Paradise Tobacco Auction warehouse at (717) 687-0990.

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