

# PFA "Stunned" At Proposed ASCS Office Closings

CAMP HILL (Cumberland Co.) — The leader of the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association (PFA) expressed stunned disbelief at the number of farm agency closings announced for Pennsylvania by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) yesterday.

"We're proponents of greater efficiency in government," said

Keith Eckel, PFA president, "but the field office eliminations being planned for our state will be a great disservice to Pennsylvania agriculture. In particular, the closing of 18 of the 60 local offices of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) is far more devastating than we expected. One targeted county, Berks County, is the third most

productive agricultural county in the state."

Eckel said farm leaders in PFA's county associations scheduled for closings will be looking at the plans to see how they affect members. "The closings are part of a nationwide effort to streamline USDA," Eckel said. "If it leads to reduced paperwork and time spent by farmers in ASCS offices to enroll and comply with federal farm programs, it will be welcomed by our members. But, if it only leads to more travel time, expense and inconvenience for farmers, we will fight to stop the shutdowns."

PFA is a statewide, voluntary farm organization which represents 23,189 member families in 54 county associations. It is affiliated with the nation's largest farm organization, the 4-million member American Farm Bureau Federation.

A listing of planned USDA county office closings, and the farm community affected, is attached.

ASCS	No. of Farms	Acres Farmed	Farm Cash Receipts in (Million \$)	Government Payments (Thousand \$)
1	2	2	2	2
Berks - Leesport ***	1,809	243,280	182.0	1,163
Cambria-Ebensburg	605	85,764	19.5	412
Clarion - Clarion	541	102,577	19.2	909
Clearfield - Clearfield	421	62,259	11.7	239
Clinton - Mill Hall	295	48,965	14.8	420
Dauphin - Dauphin	675	101,692	60.3	594
Fulton - McConellsburg	467	99,920	19.4	406
Greene - Waynesburg	638	146,002	11.0	156
Laokawanna - Clarke Summit	299	42,033	12.7	326
Lawrence - New Castle	749	96,264	32.8	509
Mifflin - Burnham	677	87,548	52.0	443
Monroe - Broadheads ville	192	26,898	4.2	183
Montgomery - Collegeville	588	56,734	36.0	340
Montour - Danville	270	41,870	14.4	635
Northampton - Nazareth	484	86,694	30.7	1,174
Potter - Coudersport	328	95,605	22.4	486
Snyder - Middleburg	702	89,998	46.4	568
Warren - Warren	472	80,943	18.7	148

\*\*\* Third most productive county in Pennsylvania

EMHA  
Butler - Butler  
Cambria - Ebensburg  
Huntingdon - Huntingdon  
Lycoming - Williamsport

SCS  
Allegheny - Pittsburgh  
Greene - Waynesburg  
Monroe - Broadheads ville  
Montour -

Source 1 - USDA 2 - Pa. Agricultural Facts, Penn State University

## Meeting Features Friendly Persuasion

WARREN (Warren Co.) — The Warren County Cooperative Extension annual meeting will be held Monday, January 25, from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. in the Slater Room of the Warren County Library. A panel of speakers will address the topic, "Promoting Your Interest — Active and Friendly Persuasion."

Nearly everyone has at one time or another had to communicate their thoughts or ideas to a spouse, coworker, government official, or an entire group. This program should give you some tips on how to make your point. Many of the same communication principles apply, no matter what the situation is.

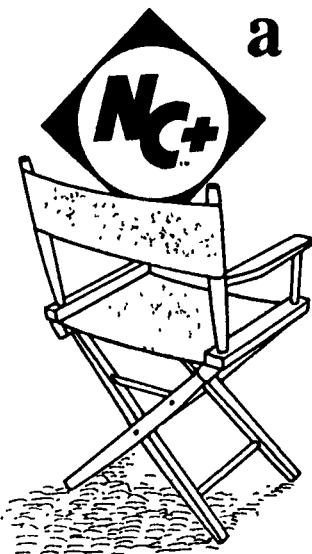
The distinguished panel of speakers have certainly used their good communication skills

in a variety of occupations or situations. The speakers include Joy Dunbar, chief executive officer of the Pennsylvania Rural Leadership Program and Ph.D. candidate in speech communication at Penn State; Nancy Powers, trainer/planner with the Warren and Forest counties department of Human Services and member of the Family Community Leadership team of Warren County Cooperative Extension; and Mary Wirth, executive director of the Allegheny hardwood Utilization Group and a staff writer for Country Folks of Pennsylvania newspaper.

The cooperative extension board will elect six new directors and will present "Volunteer of Extension" awards to several local residents.

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Ron Dodds - On New Corn, Soybean, Alfalfa Varieties  
Louis Bush On Silage Innoculants
- Wed., Feb. 3 - Midway Diner Along Rt. 78  
2 Miles East of Rt. 501 or 1 Mile West of Rt. 419  
9:30 AM to 2:30 PM  
Free Lunch  
Mike Brubaker - Update Pesticide License  
Ron Dodds - On New Corn, Soybean, Alfalfa Varieties  
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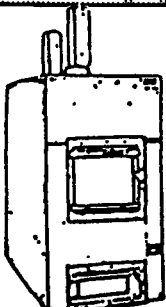
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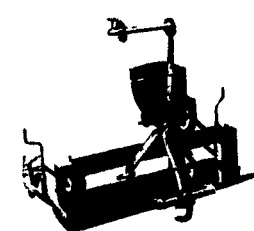


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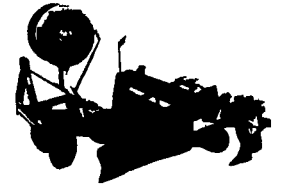
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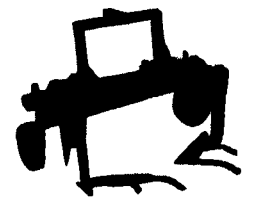
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