Club Travels To National Convention

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Not really minding the early hour or the cold weather, they stepped on the chartered bus and quickly chose their seats for the long-awaited trip to Denver, Colo.

On January 12 at 5:30 a.m., 15 Penn Staters and five students from the University of Maryland left University Park to participate in the annual Block and Bridle Club National Convention hosted by Colorado State University.

Just about dinnertime, they stopped in East Lansing, Mich., to stretch their legs, tour the Michigan State Swine Research and Teaching Center, and pick up 17 fellow students from Michigan State. Twenty-four hours later and still full of energy, they embarked on an action-packed weekend in the Rocky Mountains, beginning with some fancy two-stepping at the Grizzly Rose.

The Block and Bridle (B & B) convention officially kicked off on Thursday with the option of skiing at Winter Park Resort or a trip to the National Western Stock Show. Both activities proved to be very exciting. Thursday climaxed with a welcome dance where members greeted new faces and renewed old friendships.

On Friday, the group toured the Monfort/Kuner feedlot in Greeley, Colo., the Anheuser-Busch Brewery and Clydesdale Pavilion, and Colorado State University campus. They also enjoyed a lunch stop at Bruce's Bar and Grill for a taste of their famous Rocky Mountain Oysters and rounded out the day with an authentic Western rodeo at the National Western Stock Show. The rodeo kept everyone on the edges of their seats.

Saturday got off to a rousing start with a full slate of educational and motivational speakers. Gary Smith, professor of animal sciences at Colorado State University, holds the Monfort Endowed Chair in Meat Science. He spoke on beef quality assurance and consumer perceptions of the beef industry.

Smith is highly regarded for his contribution to research in the areas of food safety, meat animal carcass evaluation, and grading composition and quality.

Thomas Sutherland, professor of animal science at Colorado State University, spoke on his experience of being held hostage in Lebanon for more than six years. At the time of his abduction, he was dean of agriculture and food science at the American University of Beirut.

The afternoon session began with the convention's keynote speaker, William Pendley, president and chief legal officer of the Mountain States Legal Foundation and former assistant secretary for energy and minerals in the Department of the Interior under President Ronald Reagan. He spoke on prominent legal issues regarding agriculture and the environment, property rights, and the public interest in a strong and vibrant economy.

At the annual Block and Bridle awards ceremony that followed, Penn State B & B'ers proudly accepted second place for their annual yearbook. Saturday evening's farewell dance brought the convention's festivities to a close.

The National Block and Bridle Club meeting annually draws undergraduate students from across the country who have an interest in the future of animal agriculture. This year, more than 35 institutions sent over 800 delegates to the Denver meeting.

If you would like to know more about Penn State's Block and Bridle Club, please contact one of the club's co-advisors, Harold Harpster, (814) 863-0734 or Keith Bryan (814) 863-0569.



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New Courier Service To Benefit Vets

HARRISBURG, (Dauphin Co.) - State Agriculture Secretary

Boyd E. Wolff announced that a new courier service will accelerate disease identification by helping animal health officials get samples to state laboratories.

Veterinarians and state officials are now able to send tissue and blood samples to the labs through a courier who provides pick-up and delivery services from numerous collection centers through the Commonwealth.

Courier Services Unlimited, Inc., will deliver the samples to the three laboratories that constitute the Commonwealth Veterinary Diagnostic System (CVDS). The three CVDS laboratories are located at Penn State University, the University of Pennsylvania, and the Department's own laboratory in Summerdale.

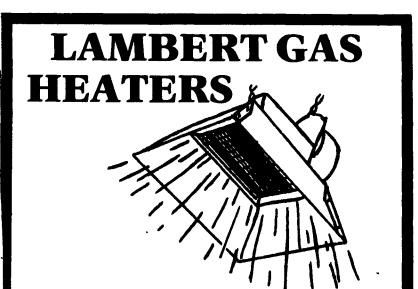
"In the past, Agriculture em-

ployees and veterinarians outside the Department tried to use the U.S. mail or some other parcel service to ship materials," Wolff said. "But the materials were often restricted and could not be sent. This new service provides a system of getting any kind of material to the closest lab, at minimal cost."

Funding provided by the Department's Animal Health and Diagnostic Commission will enable CVDS employees to use the service free of charge. Primary practicing veterinarians, who must pay to use the service, were notified by letter of the availability of the service.

"This provides a convenient and rapid system of getting samples to the labs, shortening the turnaround time," Wolff said. "It's another step that the Commission is taking to maintain animal health in Pennsylvania."







INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Berks County Conservation District is requesting bids for the construction of Animal Waste Storage to be funded in part by the Chesapeake Bay Program. Construction of this project is expected to begin March 1, 1993. The site is in Bethel Township, Berks County.

Prospective contractors will receive a bid package, which contains Instructions to Bidders, a Sample Contract Form, The Plans and Specifications for the Project,

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Small and minority businesses and women's business enterprises are encouraged to respond to this invitation for bids. The site showing date is scheduled for February 17, 1993, at 10:30 AM, at the site.

Sealed bids will be accepted until the public bid opening at the Bethel Community Center, located in Bethel Township, Berks County, on February 24, 1993. 10:30 AM.

To obtain a bid package contact:

BERKS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT PO Box 520 Leesport, PA 19533-0520 Telephone (215) 372-4657

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