

State Council Adopts Policy

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Lancaster Farming Staff
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The Pennsylvania State Council of Farm Organizations held its annual meeting Monday at the Harrisburg Hilton to review and adopt policy on agricultural issues which affect its 69 member-associations.

The meeting is also planned to provide an opportunity for representatives of each organization to meet face-to-face with state legislators to discuss those issues and policies: during the evening, a reception, called the Cornucopia, is held and all legislators are invited.

The date was changed this year to coincide with a legislative session day to maximize the attendance of legislators and to have policy more relevant to current legislative action.

The plan slightly backfired when the House of Representatives extended its session day through the evening to discuss the highly controversial student-grading program called Outcome Based Education (OBE).

More than 100 representatives who were expected to attend failed to make it to the two-hour reception.

However a number of state senators and some legislative aides, the state Secretary of Agriculture and the heads of many of the agricultural organizations were able to talk informally about the issues important to them.

Farm Council President Ernie Miller addressed the crowd to tell them of the situation at the House and also to remind attendees that though many of the legislators were unable to attend, the function was not without merit.

"I hope we don't lose sight of the purpose of the organization," he said, adding that sometimes life doesn't always go the way it is planned.

On the upside, Monday's reception was also a first for the Pennsylvania Wine Growers' Association to display their ware's, having several tables set up for tasting of the state-produced products.

Miller, finishing his last year as president, also thanked the wine industry people for their support and recognized a number of organizations that donated food for the occasion. To help legislators remember what types of agricultural products are produced in Pennsylvania, the council puts together food baskets with the donated items, which is the reason for the name, Cornucopia.

In other business, the organization adopted some changes to policy during its meeting held earlier in the day.

The council adopted two new resolutions for state policy to bring it up to a total of 46 resolutions held by the council. There were also two changes made to existing resolutions.

The new state resolutions concern county tax structure and farm vehicles.

Changes which the organizations would like to see in county tax structure would give individual counties the flexibility to choose from a variety of sources for taxing.

With farm vehicles, the council would like to extend to 25 miles from the farm, the distance traveled by farm vehicles that are exempt from registration; to 50 miles when the vehicle is in need of repairs; and to exempt from registration any trailer that is pulled by a registration-exempt vehicle.

Changes to the wording in the existing state resolutions affect its policy for a nutrient management program by requesting that Penn State University develop a "training" program for nutrient management technicians. Prior wording was for a "certification" program. The policy nows better reflects wording included in the amended H.B.100 which passed the House last week and is in the Senate for consideration.

Another state resolution with a word change concerns animal care. Instead of referring to animal

"welfare," the council now refers to animal "rights."

The council's policy is basically to stress education on accepted animal husbandry practices; to oppose any law or regulation which would hinder proper husbandry practices; to urge the state Department of Agriculture to conduct research to see if stress affects animal health and to not publish unproven findings; to not allow public funds to be used to further the animals rights cause; and to ensure that public education on animal rights, if it is to happen, must include an explanation of accepted husbandry techniques and the value to the general public.

Customer Appreciation Days Held In Lebanon



Automatic Farm Systems and Cedar Crest Equipment combined resources this week for a customer appreciation open house held at the Lebanon Fairgrounds. Company representatives met with farmers to review equipment and answer questions. The open house was held Tuesday and Wednesday and about 400 people were present for lunch. In the photo the lunch line forms in the new facilities at the fairgrounds.

Farm Forum

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these emerging countries, in this case Hungary, where it would then be processed into Goya cheese and sent duty-free into the US.

In addition, American corporations could go to the emerging countries and operate the same way. It will not serve the people of the third world.

The Goya cheese from Hungary is produced by a corporation from the Netherlands. They already control 75 percent of the Goya cheese market. Now they want the U.S. market.

Generalized System of Preference is in need of restructuring. Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE) and the National Milk and The Dairy Trade Coalition were able to stop Hungary from dumping Goya cheese in the US.

However, this situation requires constant monitoring by every dairy organization in the country. It requires unity in policy and an unwavering stand by the U.S. dairy industry.

WIFE, National Milk and The DTC cannot do it alone. One hole in the bucket and the imported products will be here.

We will very closely monitor NAFTA and GATT and will call for action as it is needed.

Lyn Forkal, PA WIFE
Nuholson, Pa.



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