

## Pa. Farmers Increase Conservation Practices

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — State farmers' efforts to comply with a federal law are protecting Pennsylvania's soil and beautifying its landscape.

Farmers are installing conservation practices such as strip-

ping in record numbers to comply with the 1985 and 1990 Farm Bills, said Richard Duncan, state conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in Harrisburg.

The farm bills require farmers

to install the practices in their conservation plan by Dec. 31, 1994, or lose eligibility for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) farm program benefits.

Stripcropping is often listed in farmers' conservation plan as an

erosion-control measure, Duncan said. Pennsylvania farmers installed nearly 50,000 acres of stripcropping on cropland in fiscal 1992, a three-fold increase over the previous fiscal year.

With this visually attractive

practice, strips of grass or close-growing crops are alternated with cultivated crops such as corn on the land's contour or across the slope. This practice conserves water, soil and fertilizer; increases cover variety for wildlife; and reduces fuel consumption.

Pennsylvania farmers also are using other practices such as diversions, waterways, terraces, crop residue management and pasture management to protect their fragile cropland.

SCS employees have helped these farmers apply conservation practices on nearly 1.1 million acres of this land so far, Duncan said. Financial assistance is available to apply practices from the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service and the Farmers Home Administration.

## Edwards Named NALF Executive V.P.

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — Dr. John Edwards has been named executive vice president of the North American Limousin Foundation (NALF) in Englewood, Colo.

One of the most respected animal science educators in the United States, he has taught at the university level for 15 years, most recently at Texas A&M University.

"He brings a wealth of experience in all phases of the beef industry to this position, along with tremendous ability to communicate with our membership and other industry leaders," said Tom Stewman, NALF president.

In the position, Edwards will be responsible for directing the prog-



Dr. John Edwards

rams and operations of an organization that represents the fastest growing major beef breed in the United States, and the third largest major beef breed in the nation, based on annual registrations.

"I'm excited about coming to this position because I've had a high regard for Limousin cattle for a number of years, based on the inherent strengths of the breed," said Edwards.

Edwards said, "This is a tremendous opportunity to work with a great breed of cattle and an outstanding group of breeders who are committed to improving the breed and its position within the industry."

He emphasizes that Limousin breeders and the NALF board of

directors are committed to involvement in the total beef industry. They believe every effort to improve the total industry is rewarded with increased opportunity for Limousin.

"Our breed continues to grow at a record pace," said Stewman, "With John's guidance and direction, we should accelerate the development of a breed of cattle that has unlimited potential in this country."

## To Chair Subcommittee

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Sen. Harris Wofford was recently elected to chair the Small Business Subcommittee on Export Expansion and Agricultural Development.

He was also appointed to the Senate Small Business Subcommittee on Urban and Minority-Owned Business Development.

"Since agriculture is Pennsylvania's number one industry, I'm especially pleased to have been elected chairman of the Export Expansion and Agricultural Development Subcommittee. The subcommittee's purpose is to ensure that we're doing the best possible job in helping small businesses compete and expand in foreign

markets.

"Strengthening the competitiveness of Pennsylvania agriculture is essential to maintaining a strong rural economy," Wofford said. "Chairing this subcommittee will allow me to address some of the pressing business issues affecting Pennsylvania farmers and food processors.

"Since I came to the Senate, I've put the concerns of Pennsylvania farmers, from drought assistance to trade policy, at the top of my agenda. This subcommittee now gives us a new forum for Pennsylvania's rural communities to air their concerns and let those of us in Congress know how government can serve them better."

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