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Pennsylvania Officials: DHIA Set For Future

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

MONROEVILLE (Allegheny Co.)—With an up-beat tenor, officials of the Pennsylvania DHIA took the opportunity at the annual meeting late last week to say the state organization was moving ahead with new and flexible programs to meet every dairy farmer's need and selective desire. And with the newly approved national by-laws that eliminate geographical boundaries, President Frank Orner said the board of directors took "a real hard look to get in position for the competitive arena DHIA seems to be taking on.

"We need to put the past behind and look to the future," Orner said. "We need to improve the organization, make things better for the members, look at the opportunities in each situation instead of dwelling on what we are losing.

"Sometimes we look at the big

picture; at the same time we don't want to forget the little problems because they could become the big problems we deal with down the line. Don't be afraid to share your concerns, large or small, with the directors."

Because Extension has received decreased funding from state appropriations, Orner announced a cooperative joint effort with Northeast DHIA to fund research projects. "We rely heavily on work that extension does for the development of new programs and programs we are working with now," Orner said. "We hope a year from now we will be able to have some proposals of items we can be working on jointly between Penn State and Cornell and between some other universities in north-eastern U.S."

Beside this joint research project, Orner said Pennsylvania has been working with Northeast and

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The formation of the Clyde S. Robinson Leadership Award was announced at the Pennsylvania DHIA annual meeting. Bill Jackson, vice president, presents a memorial clock to Clyde's wife Marie Robinson and children, from left, Bev Minor, Connie Lusk, and Robert Robinson.

Phila. Rep. Wants More Benefits For Farmworkers

VERNON ACHENBACH, JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — A state Democratic rep-

resentative from Philadelphia Thursday introduced a package of legislative proposals into the House of Representatives that

would increase the cost to hire farmworkers, in an effort to make farmworker benefits here coincide with benefits afforded industrial

laborers.

The proposal would alter three main labor laws — the 1936 Unemployment Compensation Law; the 1937 Pennsylvania Labor Relations Act, dealing with collective bargaining and unionizing; and the 1978 Seasonal Farm labor Act.

Sponsoring the bill, state Rep. Mark Cohen, House majority Whip, would not consent to a telephone interview because of a busy schedule, according to Michael Cassidy, his assistant.

However, this past week Cohen introduced the proposed legisla-

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FDA's VMAC Sets Public Hearing On BST

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
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WASHINGTON D.C. — The controversial bovine growth hormone, otherwise known as bovine somatotropin (BST), is apparently nearing the end of its official Food and Drug Administration review process.

If no valid objections can be made to the use of manufactured BST, it can be expected that the biotechnological product would make its entry onto the U.S. commercial market late this summer or fall, according to observers.

Several manufacturers with rights to produce BST-like products have been waiting for years for a go-ahead decision from FDA to make the product available commercially.

The companies may not have to wait much longer, pending the outcome of testimony scheduled to be given during a three-hour period March 31.

According to a not-widely circulated announcement, a veterinary advisory committee to the FDA is to meet March 31 at the Holiday Inn in Gaithersburg, Md., to discuss the use of commercially manufactured types of bovine somatotropine (BST) for use in

cows to stimulate the production of milk.

The national Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM), part of the FDA, has already concluded that the use of BST does not pose a threat to human health.

But that doesn't mean that it will be received by all the public with open arms.

About the same time as the CVM announcement, two farm organizations and a consumer group lobbied the White House to

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Staff Writer Wins PNPA Honor For Water Series

EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) — Andy Andrews, staff writer for *Lancaster Farming*, will be honored with a second place award in the Pennsylvania Newspaper Publishers' Association (PNPA) Keystone Press contest in May.

Andrews won for Division VI, weekly newspapers with more than 10,000 circulation, for a series on how farmers can identify and manage water quality problems in a three-part series. The series

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Cliff and Sue Martin with daughters, Amy, Kim, and Audrey find that raising miniature horses is a hobby the whole family enjoys. For more about the Martins and their Pinto Park Miniature Horses, turn to page B2. Photo by Lou Ann Good.