

# PFA Members

(Continued from Page A19)

poultry. The program contained in H.B. 100 would protect water quality from the runoff of excess animal waste and would place farmers under the regulatory umbrella of a single state agency, the State Conservation Commission. The legislation would also create a Nutrient Management Advisory Committee to help guide the program.

**DER Advisory Board** — An "agricultural advisory committee" to the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) has been operating for several years, but its function and membership has never been defined by regulation or law. As environmental issues take on greater emphasis in government, PFA believes it is important that DER has access to advice and expertise regarding normal farming practices. PFA is supporting S.B. 298 which would legally and formally establish an ag advisory board. The board would include representatives from production agriculture and would have advance notice of any regulations affecting agriculture.

**Seasonal Farm Labor** — PFA

has strong reservations about proposals recently announced by House Majority Whip Mark Cohen to further regulate employers of all farmworkers. Many of the proposals duplicate laws and regulations already in place at the state and federal level. One proposal, to apparently require farmers to guarantee the amount of harvest work offered, ignores the vagaries of weather and could force farmers out of fruit or vegetable production.

**Water Resources Management** — The recurrence of drought conditions during the past several years has focused attention on the vulnerability of the state's water resources. PFA is supporting S.B. 351 which would require DER to develop a state water plan with the advice of a state Water Resource Advisory Committee and local advisory committees. DER would be authorized to protect areas with special needs. High-volume water users would be subject to DER regulation.

**Local Tax Reform** — Because of their dependence on land to grow crops and raise livestock, farmers shoulder a bigger real

estate tax burden than other taxpayers. PFA recommends the enactment of local tax reform to allow local taxing authorities to replace nuisance taxes and reduce real estate taxes with a mixture of income and property taxes.

**High Power Transmission Lines** — PFA is supporting legislation, H.B. 381, which would require electric utilities to seek approval from the state Agricultural Lands Condemnation Board before erecting high power transmission lines over farmland enrolled in agricultural security areas for farmland preservation purposes.

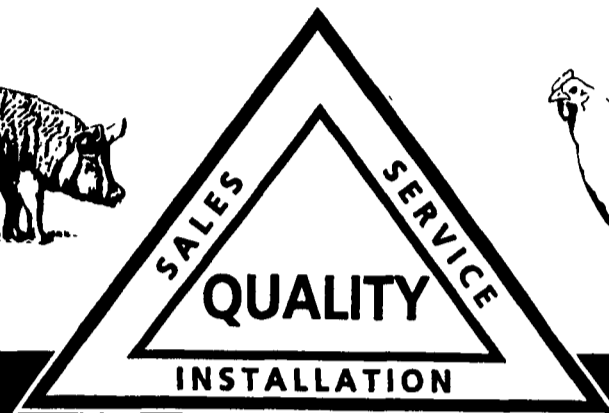
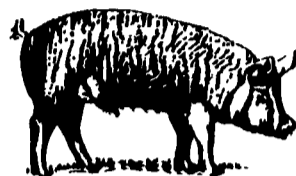
**Beverage Container Deposits** — Roadside litter continues to plague farmers, damaging their field equipment, contaminating harvested crops, and in some cases, causing the death of their

livestock. PFA is urging passage of H.B. 394 and S.B. 183 to require minimum deposits on beverage containers. PFA also supports S.B. 341 which would allow a public referendum on the issue.

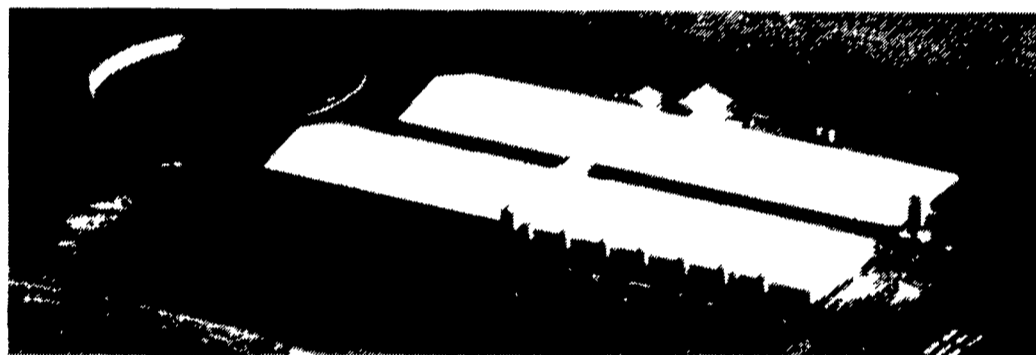
**Agricultural Education** — As the farm population becomes a smaller and smaller minority, PFA believes it's important that the public, especially future citizens, know where their food comes from and the role agriculture plays in society. PFA is urging prompt passage of H.B. 98 which would establish a state agricultural education program to develop courses and study materials for use by school districts.

**Semi-wild Animals** — Recent incidents of disease outbreaks in exotic animals held in captivity and deer or elk raised on farms have led to the need to subject these animals to the same health regulations as other farm animals. PFA is urging passage of H.B. 141 and H.B. 142 to give the Department of Agriculture authority to inspect these animals and quarantine or depopulate them if contagious diseases are discovered. Under the bills, the animal owners would be eligible for indemnity payments.

Following the meetings with their legislators, the farmers will hear an address from president Eckel at a banquet at the Harrisburg Hotel starting at 6:30 p.m.



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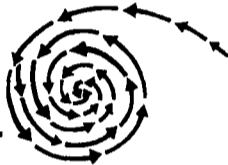
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