

Grangers, Legislators Talk About Issues

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Nearly 400 Grange members recently gathered at the Sheraton Inn, Harrisburg, recently to discuss issues with state legislators.

This annual legislative event is the Pennsylvania State Grange's attempt to bring government closer to its people.

"The banquet is our way of saying, 'thank you,' to the (Pennsylvania) Legislature for the hard work they do," said Brenda Shambaugh, Grange legislative director. "It also gives our members an ideal opportunity to discuss, one-on-one, the problems facing them."

Prior to the evening banquet, members held workshops on various topics. Covered were Gov. Robert Casey's health care proposal, water rights, rural transportation, rural leadership and farm and

home safety.

The Pennsylvania State Grange represents approximately 35,000 rural Pennsylvanians. It was the first organized farm movement after the Civil War.

During the legislative banquet, a number of issues were covered, according to Shambaugh.

Among them, were nutrient management and the proposed House Bill 100, which is expected to pass the Democrat-majority ruled Legislature this year. The Grange's position is that state-wide nutrient management legislation is needed to protect farmers and consumers.

For years the Grange has been lobbying for a "bottle bill" similar to the ones which have been in effect for about a decade in other Middle and North Eastern states.

Since beverage containers constitute a large and continuous danger to the health and welfare of livestock and rural people, and since littering laws are apparently ineffectual or not enforced, the Grange has sought for a combination recycling-incentive program which would be compatible to programs in surrounding states.

Specifically, the Grange supports a program which would place a nickle deposit on bottles.

In other areas, the Grange's proposal to increase the attractiveness of rural living to highly trained and otherwise highly paid professionals, would be in the form of an educational loan forgiveness program.

According to Shambaugh, "Many of the state's colleges and universities train some of the best professionals in the country, but often these students are lured out of the state. This bill would give loan forgiveness for agriculture

and veterinary students if they farm or practice in Pennsylvania after graduation."

On another environmental issue, deep mine mediation is a hot topic for the Grange. According to Shambaugh, "This compromise on Mine Subsidence Laws, includes a provision that the coal company must replace water and buildings in the event of loss or pollution of the water."

On other issues the Grange:

- Supports the formation of a DER Agricultural Advisory Committee. This DER committee would be comprised of representatives of agriculture whose job it would be to review all proposed DER policies and regulations. Senate Bill 298 would create such a committee. The bill passed the Senate and is now under consideration in the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee.
- Supports seasonal farm labor legislation which would benefit

farmers who use migrant workers. (SB 1238)

- Wants to change a proposed water quantity bill, Senate Bill 351, to ensure that local water allocation decisions are made locally. Under the current proposal to ensure adequate water during drought, local authority would not be the case. The Grange seeks creating regional boards to put the plan together at the local level.

Generally, on other issues, Grange officials report that: its insurance committee is looking into the rising cost of health care and what legislative solutions may be possible; it is upset with the consistent lack of, and repeated cutting of adequate state funding for agriculture and agricultural education; it wants wetlands regulations to take into account historic uses and allow the continuance of those uses; it wants a reform of local tax law so that a more equitable system of taxing can be used.

Lamb Sale Strong At Yeo Farms

LOWELLVILLE, Ohio — 4-H competitors from Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Maryland participated in Yeo Farms', second Livestock Judging Contest held in conjunction with Yeo Farms' annual Club Lamb Sale, April 24. Both events took place at the farm in Lowellville.

Forty seven young people competed as individuals and as county 4-H club teams. There were three junior teams, for those up to the age of 13, and six senior teams. Each participant was asked to evaluate eight pens containing four animals. There were two pens of cattle, two of hogs, and four of sheep.

In the team competition, Mahoning County, Ohio had teams in first place in both divisions. On the junior team were Matt Petrus of New Springfield, Alvin Flick of Canfield, Bryan Yosay of Canfield, and Shane Linden of Canfield. On the senior team were John La Rocca of Poland, Travis Moser of Berlin Center, Sherri Sanders of Youngstown, and Andrea Musser of New Middletown.

Second place in the junior division went to Portage County, Ohio, with a team of Justin Pelletier and Brenda Campbell both of Diamond, and David and Cassie Rankin of Ravenna. Second place in the senior division was won by Mercer, Pa. with a team of Amy Lazar of Clarks Mills, Amber Amon of Stoneboro, and Molly and Lisa Friedman of Fredonia.

Trumbull County, Ohio teams won third place in both the junior and senior divisions. On the junior team were Leah Scharville of Burghill, Rudy Solomon of Lordstown, and Josh Boorn and Shaun Palette, both of Bristolville. On the senior team were Todd Pessek and Larry Criddle of Bristolville, and Mike and Jake Biery of Southington.

In the individual competition, David Rankin of Ravenna, Ohio won the blue ribbon in the junior division. Second place went to Matt Petrus of New Springfield, Ohio. Bryan Yosay of Canfield, Ohio won third place.

In the senior division, John LaRocca of Poland, Ohio won first place in the individual competition. Second place went to Andrea Musser, of New Middletown, Ohio. Third place went to Travis Moser of Berlin Center, Ohio.

Club Lamb Sale

At the Yeo Farms Club Lamb Sale that afternoon, 34 club lambs were sold at an average price of \$127, up more than 18 percent from the previous year.

YEO FARMS LIVESTOCK JUDGING TEAM RESULTS

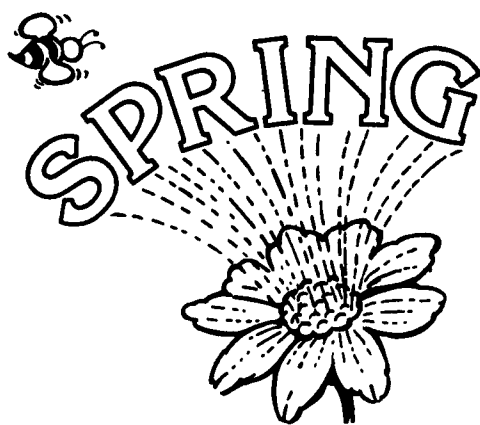
Jr. Division: 1. Mahoning County, OH; Matt Petrus, Alvin Flick, Bryan Yosay, Shane Linden. 2. Portage County, OH; Justin Pelletier, Brenda Campbell, David Rankin, Cassie Rankin. 3. Trumbull County, OH; Leah Scharville, Josh Boorn, Shaun Palette, Rudy Solomon.

Sr. Division: 1. Mahoning County, OH; John LaRocca, Travis Moser, Sherri Sanders, Andrea Musser. 2. Mercer County, PA; Amy Lazar, Amber Amon, Molly Friedman, Lisa Friedman. 3. Trumbull County, OH; Mike Biery, Jake Biery, Todd Pessek, Larry Criddle.

YEO FARMS LIVESTOCK JUDGING INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

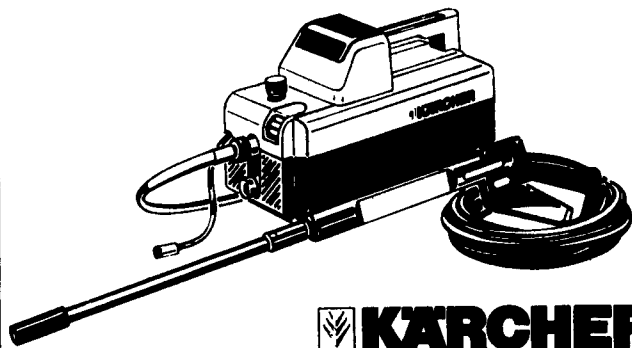
Jr. Division: 1. David Rankin, Portage County, OH; 2. Matt Petrus, Mahoning County, OH; 3. Bryan Yosay, Mahoning County, OH.

Sr. Division: 1. John LaRocca, Mahoning County, OH; 2. Andrea Musser, Mahoning County, OH. 3. Travis Moser, Mahoning County, OH.



CLEANUP SALE

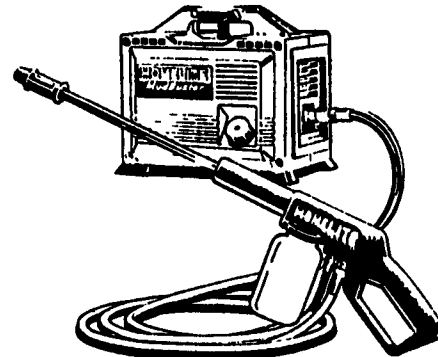
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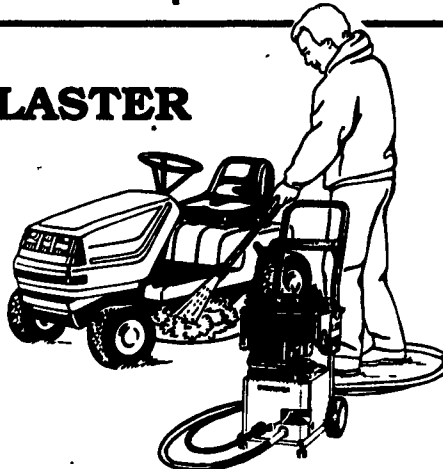


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1.7 gpm
1000 psi
2 cycle gas engine

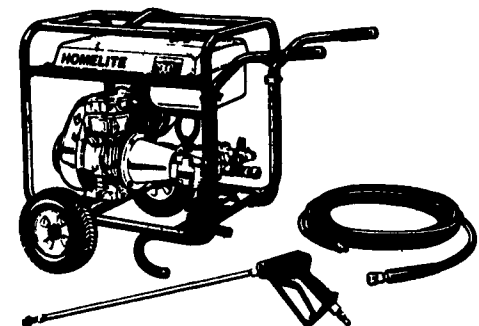
\$279⁰⁰

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