New Jersey FFA Convention Next Week

TRENTON, N.J. — More than 250 FFA members are expected in New Brunswick for the annual NJ FFA Convention which will be held at Cook College, Rutgers.

During the three (3) day convention, FFA members and delegates from across the state will gather to conduct business and honor fellow members for their outstanding achievements.

This year's convention to be held May 24-26, will feature Todd Hingson, Vice President of Live Oak, Florida as a keynote speaker. Other guest speakers include Mr. John Rodgers, Honorable Arthur R. Brown, Secretary of Agriculture, Dean Daryl Lund, Executive Dean, Cook College, and Dr. Thomas A. Henry, Director, Office of Adult and Occupational Education.

According to Nancy Trivette, state FFA advisor, awards in agriscience, agricultural proficiency and other areas will be presented to outstanding members, and top chapters will receive Safety, Superior Chapter and Building Our American Communities awards. New Jersey FFA Degrees will be conferred upon 23 members who, as a result of their agricultural and leadership achievements, have qualified for the highest FFA degree a state can bestow upon its members.

In addition to student recognition, several adults and groups are to be cited for outstanding service to the FFA. Honorary State FFA Degrees will be presented to eight (8) individuals. Distinguished Service Awards will be given to two (2) businesses for their support of the NJ FFA Association.

The NJ state FFA officers will preside over the convention. They are: Travis Eachus, President, Elmer, NJ, Tiffany Roberson, Vice President, Columbus, NJ, Theresa Cooper, Secretary, Lambertville, NJ, Allison Cottrell,

Sentinel, Cream Ridge, NJ, Dean Pearce, Reporter, East Brunswick, Nicole Write, Treasurer, New Egypt, NJ, and Jay Tilton, Parliamentarian, Marlboro, NJ.

Fifty official delegates from each of the 36 number chapters in the state will represent the membership in voting on business. According to Travis Eachus, State President, the key issues for 1993 will be constitutional changes, contest revision and development and chartering a new chapter.

National FFA Vice President, Todd Hingson will address the convention Monday, May 24th at 8:00 p.m. The major emphasis of his speech will be strengthening agricultural education programs and increasing participation in FFA activities on all levels.

Hingson's was elected at the 65th National Convention in Kansas City, MO. last November. (Sce attached biography for additional information).

CREAMERY (Montgomery Co.) — If you are currently grazing, considering grazing, or just curious about grazing, then this series of Pasture Walks is for you.

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Not only will you get to see farms using pasture systems, but you will also be able to ask questions and network with other interested farmers.

The following three farms have agreed to host pasture walks the last Thursday of the month, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., May through October. For more information about the tours and directions to the farms, contact Tim Fritz at (215) 489-4315.

• May 27, Brian and Brenda Moyer, Montgomery County. Starting third year of pasture system, 36 cows and 15 heifers with 65 acres available to graze, water available in each paddock. Crops grazed: cool season grass/clover mixes, sorghum-sundangrass and brassicas. Total mixed ration, moderate milk production.

• June 24, Jessie Howe, Bucks County. Starting third year of grazing, 20 cows to be increased to 35 with 23 acres available to graze, Water available in each paddock, cool season grass legume pastures, started seasonal dairying this year. Only equipment: one tractor, rotary mower, and manure spreader. Moderate milk production.

• July 29, Forrest Stricker Farm, Berks County. First year of grazing, total of 99 head grazing 50 permanent pasture acres with more land available for temporary grazing. Two alleys and water available to all pastures. Cool season grass/legume pastures and alfalfa grazed. High milk

production.

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Poultry Producers Included For

Tax Break

HARRISBURG
(Dauphin Co.) — The
Pennsylvania Department of Revenue has
clarified the state sales
tax exemption so that
farmers who construct
manure holding facilities beneath high-rise
poultry houses do not
have to pay sales tax on
that portion of their new
building, according to
Agriculture Secretary
Boyd E. Wolff.

Wolff, who had asked for a clarification, commended officials at the state Department of Revenue for their decision which will benefit poultry producers.

"In the past, manure facilities in the basements of hog feeder operations qualified for the exemption while similar units under poultry houses did not qualify," Wolff said.

"These manure facilities can accurately be called "manure tanks" and as such they are equipment directly used in the operation of a farm."

The Tax Reform Code of 1971 exempts from sales tax any purchase of machinery, equipment and supplies used by the purchaser directly in the operation of farming.

The Department of Revenue has determined that a manure holding tank qualifies as directly used equipment. That is true even though the "tank" may be a concrete structure either below ground or at ground level.

Farmers who have questions concerning the sales tax should consult the Pennsylvania Sales and Use Tax Regulation 226 or they should contact the Department of Revenue, Sales Tax Division (717) 783-9360.

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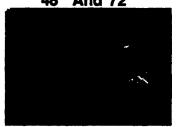
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