

# Dairy Of Distinction Winners Meet At Ag Progress Days



Representatives of most of the winners of the 1993 Dairy of Distinction farm awards attended the Tuesday afternoon program in their honor at Ag Progress Days. This year 49 new farms were honored. Guests of honor included Boyd Wolff, Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture and Mrs. Wolff (center with sign). The secretary read a proclamation from acting governor,

Mark Singel that designated the week of August 15 to 21 as Dairy of Distinction Week. Large color photographic prints of each winning farm was presented by Lancaster Farming. At the end of the meeting, winners got together on the barn hill for this photograph. Photo by Everett Newswanger, managing editor.

## Speakers Extol Partnership

EVERETT NEWSWANGER  
Managing Editor

ROCKSPRING (Centre Co.)—The government luncheon at Ag Progress Days Wednesday featured the introduction of national, state and county political representatives. Various speakers presented the idea that the partnership of agriculture, education and government was necessary, and the reason for the success of the various segments of Pennsylvania's life.

Joab Thomas, Penn State University president, said the importance of agriculture in Pennsylvania goes beyond the important fact that it is the largest industry and an important "economic engine" in the state economy. He placed "great significance" in agriculture's support of a value system that is the backbone of the country.

"The farmers of the world are examples of the value systems that have made this country strong," Thomas said. "A strong agriculture in this country is important."

Lamartine Hood, dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences, said agribusiness is the heart of the economy's revitalization. He said Ag Progress Days provide the opportunity to celebrate the vitality of this fantastic food system that we have in Pennsylvania.

"Here we have a shining example of how government, industry and education can form partnerships to insure the high quality and safe food supply that are abundantly available to all of our citizens," Hood said.

Ruth Rudy (D-171) brought greetings from acting governor, Mark Singel.

The featured speaker was Keith Eckel, president, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. Eckel said progress in agriculture must be geared to knowledge rather than to emotion or superstition. He said he was disappointed that the adoption of the budget reconciliation bill last week in Washington included a little-known clause that prohibits the use of BST for 90 days after it is approved for use.

"I am neither an advocate or a detractor of BST, but let me say it would be a mistake to make a political debate out of the decisions that should be made out of good science and medical fact," Eckel said. "If the legislature would have voted on all the new technology, we would still be back in the agriculture of the 1800's."

"In a book published in 1892, the projection was made of an extreme food shortage by the 1930's because we would not have enough to feed the horses that it would take to produce the food. But we sought change, and we met the challenge because we used the best resources of knowledge.

"I know the people that are involved in the public policy decisions that are going to impact the future of agriculture in the 21st century," Eckel said. "Those people are knowledgeable, honest and sincere. Now is the time for us to work together to focus the direction of all of our efforts toward a successful ag economy. People must be involved, and I am optimistic. Our future is in our hands, and the changes we face can still be shaped. But we as a group, a partnership between industry, farmers and the land grant system, must come together to meet that challenge so the speaker standing here 20 years from now can look back with pride and ahead with confidence. That's the challenge we all face as we meet the next decade."

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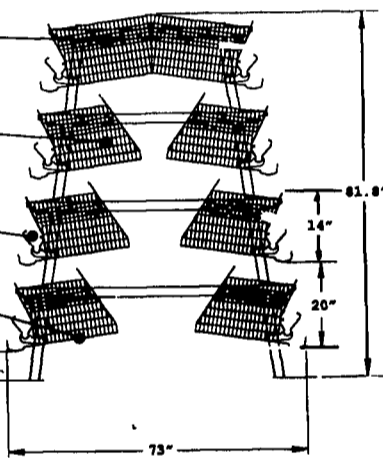
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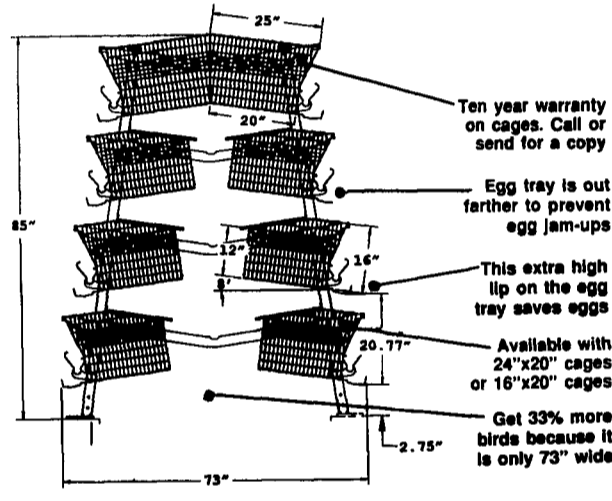
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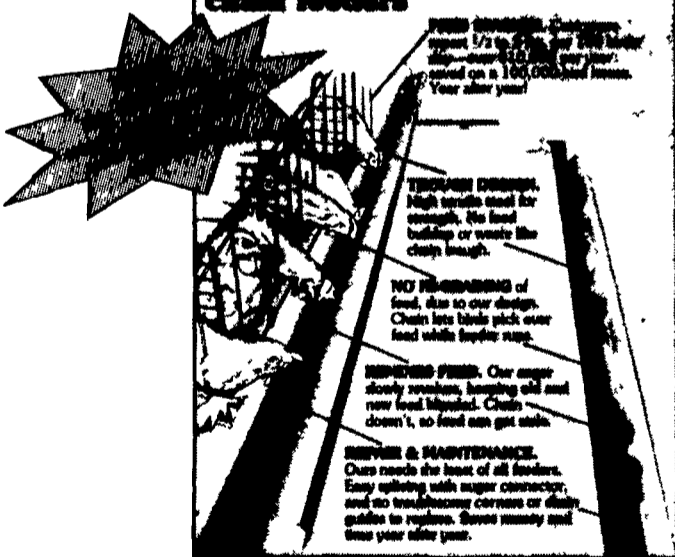
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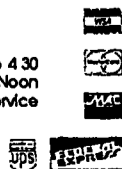
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