

Ridge Family Visits Grumbine Farm, Talks Agriculture

MYERSTOWN (Lebanon Co.) — Republican gubernatorial candidate, Tom Ridge, spent this morning having breakfast with area farmers, seeing newborn livestock, and touring corn and soybean fields on the back of a tractor. Ridge, who spent Monday night with his family at the Myerstown farm of Dennis Grumbine, is on a four-day, eleven-city tour of the state "to let Pennsylvanians get to know me, and let me get to know Pennsylvanians even better."

Grumbine, who is Chairman of the Farmers for Ridge Coalition, asked local farmers and agribusiness leaders to his farm this morning so that they could discuss their concerns with Ridge and meet the man "best qualified and most willing to listen when it comes to the concerns of the state's agricultural industry and rural communities." Part of a broader Agricultural Coalition for Ridge, the Farmers Coalition was the first state-wide coalition formed by Ridge. Don Cook, from Bucks Co. and Mike Brubaker, from Lancaster Co. are working for agri business support.

Ridge's 7:30 a.m. breakfast included a broad discussion of agricultural issues including the need for Pennsylvania's next Governor to actively promote the state's agricultural products.

"I can assure you that I plan to be the Governor that will market our agricultural products in markets here and abroad. A strong and well-staffed Department of Agriculture, support for research into new markets and exporting our products to overseas markets are all part of my plan to bolster this \$40 billion industry," Ridge said this morning.

Citing the fact that the state's number one industry makes up less than five percent of the state's exports, Ridge said he plans to improve export development for

agriculture and food products. Earlier this year, he proposed a comprehensive "Keystone Export Strategy," which includes measures to provide technical and financial expertise to businesses and individuals looking to export. Ridge also plans to be the Governor that engages in a number of overseas-trade missions to promote Pennsylvania and its products to foreign governments and companies.

"All Pennsylvania jobs — agricultural, industrial and small business alike — are going to increasingly depend on Pennsylvania's ability to successfully compete among the 49 other states and in emerging global markets," Ridge told the group gathered for breakfast, "Pennsylvania's economic prosperity lies in our farmers and industries having the tools and leadership they need to compete."

In addition, Ridge discussed the importance of having a Governor who understands the challenges today's farmers face, from soil conservation and pesticide use to the delays often caused by dealing with the State Department of Environmental Resources. Ridge said he "plans to be that Governor."

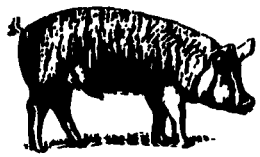
Ridge is calling for a comprehensive overhaul of the Department of Environmental Resources to streamline the permitting process, improve the responsiveness of the agency and end the adversarial relationship that DER has engendered with the public. Specifically, Ridge's plan calls for the creation of an office to work exclusively with the regulated community to improve understanding of and compliance with environmental regulations. Ridge's plan would also elevate the Bureaus of State Parks and Forestry to a cabinet-level department.



Tom Ridge with children Lesley and Tommy, center, learn about livestock farming from Dennis Grumbine, left. At the halter of the Lebanon Fair champion sheep is P. J. Bouer, and Kristen Hoffer shows her prize winning yearling Holstein.



Barbara and Dennis Grumbine, introduce the Tom Ridge family, Michele, Tom, Lesley, 7, and Tommy, 6, at a press conference on the farm, Tuesday morning. Ridge is an early Republican gubernatorial candidate for 1994 and has promised strong support for agriculture if elected.



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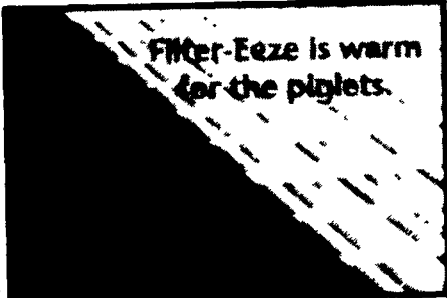
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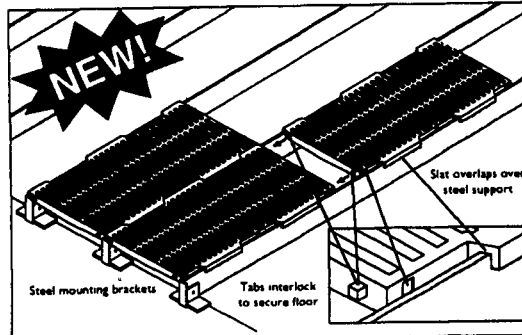
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(Continued from Page A21)

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• November 18, on Brian and Brenda Moyer's farm in Montgomery County, will be the last pasture walk the season. This walk will feature late fall early winter grazing. A no-till seeding of turnips into tall fescue will be grazed. The late July seeding looks excellent. Brian and Brenda are on their third year of grazing with 36 cows.

For more information about the walks and directions to the farms contact Tim Fritz, Montgomery Co., (215) 489-4315; Clyde Myers in Berks Co. at (215) 378-1327; or Dave Dunbar in Lehigh Co. at (215) 391-9840.



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