Dairylea Reviews Year

(Continued from Page A1)

"ending in a profit of \$1,217,000. This marks the fifth successive year of annualized profits in excess of \$1 million." Other positive financial indicators reported by Smith included: tax-paid retained carnings increased to \$2.3 million; debt-to-equity improved significantly to 81-cents on the dollar, compared to last year's \$1.10 for every \$1 of member equity; and member equity as a percentage of total assets improved 22.9 percent compared to last year.

Additionally, Smith said Dairylea remained committed to providing innovative and much needed services and programs to farmer members. These services include top-rated health insurance coverage; milkcheck direct deposit; a member loam program; Farmer Flex, which is a flexible benefits program that allows members to pay health, dental, vision, and childcare expenses with pre-tax dollars; and leadership and farm family programs.

Dairylea President Clyde Rutherford, in his address, discussed the changes experienced by Dairylea in the last 15 years, Rotherford's tenure as president. Rutherford emphasized the important role of members during this

turbulent time. "Our membership understands that, to achieve our goals, we may do things a little differently — different from the past and different from other cooperatives. The continued support and encouragement of our members has enabled the Cooperative to travel down both unfamiliar and innovative roads, which ultimately have led to greener pastures."

Rutherford also applauded the management staff and support employees for their dedication and commitment to Dairylea's goals. He commended the field personnel and members for Dairylea's fine reputation as a supplier of quality

Rutherford stressed the need for national unity among dairy farmers regarding federal dairy policy. "We all share the common goal of wanting to improve the financial situation of the dairy farming community. However, too much time is wasted on arguing about which road to take, rather than concentrating on arriving at our destination." With the steadily eroding federal budgetary support for current dairy policy, Rutherford emphasized that "we can no longer look to government to provide price protection." Jim Barr, chief executive officer of the National

State Rep. Seeks Farm Safety Program

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) - At a Harrisburg news conference last week state Rep. Sara G. Steelman, D-Indiana/Cambria, announced she is to introduce legislation designed to promote farm accident prevention.

Her bill, to be introduced after the House returns to session next week, would empower the Department of Agriculture to establish a grant program for farm safety education programs for all persons

Milk Producers Federation (NMPF), spoke about federal dairy policy and NMPF's response during a break-out session on Tuesday.

Throughout the two days, members and guests had the opportunity to attend other sessions on health care reform, farm plans and clinical mastitis treatment, nutrient management, and farm succession planning.

Dairylea, a Syracuse-based dairy cooperative, has more than 2,300 member farms throughout the Northeast. It markets a total of 3.1 billion pounds of milk annually and participates and is invested in a milk marketing network stretching from Maine to Maryland to Ohio.

engaged in agricultural production, including older adults and children.

Eligible grant recipients would include vocational and technical schools; community colleges; state-owned and state-related colleges and universities; agricultural extension services; and agricultural and rural youth organizations.

Steelman said the debate over workers' compensation reform earlier this year sparked her interest in emphasizing improved workplace safety on farms.

"Farming is Pennsylvania's biggest business," said Steelman. "Unfortunately, it's also a dangerous business. That's reflected both in the human toll of death and injury and in the high insurance rates farmers pay.

"When we were discussing the role of education in reducing workplace injuries, I began to think a farm safety education program would be a good idea.

"In addition," said Steelman, "Dan and Leanne Griffith, who farm in Indiana County, have been presenting a farm machinery safety program for local young people that I think is a model for the kinds of local educational projects the state should encourage.

Steelman noted that according to Penn State University's Cooperative Extension Service, 107 farm fatalities and 99 injuries were reported in the commonwealth between 1990 and 1992.

"Of the fatalities, 67 percent involved either children 14 years of age and younger or adults 55 years of age and older," Steelman said. This is strong evidence our efforts must encompass every age group involved in and around farming."

The data also showed 80 percent of the reported deaths resulted from accidents involving tractors and other agricultural equipment and machinery.

"The real tragedy is that many farm injuries and deaths are preventable," said the Indiana De-

"As the saying goes, 'an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure,' both in terms of the economic aspects of accidents and health costs and most certainly in alleviating human suffering.

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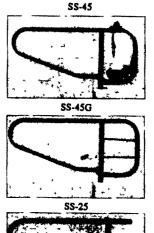
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