

Agricultural Groups Support NAFTA

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"We believe the nation has had a healthy debate on trade with many important issues being raised by both sides," said Steve Halloran, NFO president, in a statement. "Our organization was never opposed to trade, just this version of the trade agreement. We now pledge our efforts to making NAFTA a success."

Further, Halloran said that NFO, created as an agricultural commodities marketing organization, would probably serve its members better by spending time marketing commodities, rather than attempt-

ing to influence trade policies.

"Our experiences with policy issues the last several years suggest we can better serve our members by focusing less on politics and more on marketing. We've enjoyed considerable success in enhancing the prices received by our farmer-members. While politics and policy certainly have an impact on price, our experience with NAFTA suggests our efforts are better directed to the marketing side," he said in the statement.

"Everyone involved on both sides had very deep feeling about NAFTA. They all supported it or opposed it for their own personal reasons. But now it's time to move on and work together for better prices and more profit for American agricultural producers."

In a news release this week, a Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences expert stated that the NAFTA agreement should mean better business for the U.S. dairy industry, but not necessarily a direct boost for Pennsylvania

dairymen.

According to a news release from the PSU College of Agricultural Sciences Agricultural Information Services, Dr. Milton Hallberg, a professor of agricultural economics and interim head of the college's economics and rural sociology department, there is a strong possibility that the U.S. dairy industry will benefit from the tri-national trade agreement.

According to the statement, "U.S. exports of agricultural products to Mexico are expected to increase by \$480 million, while Mexican exports to the United States are expected to increase by \$170 million. U.S. farm income is expected to increase by up to \$200 million."

In the news release, Hallberg said, "The United States has not sacrificed much in this agreement, but Mexico has agreed to phase out restrictive import rules and quotas on many products, including agricultural goods."

One of Hallberg's students and

Dr. Stephen Smith, an associated professor of agricultural economics at Penn State, in 1990 went to Mexico to do field work on the possible impact of free trade.

"Mexico's dairy production has not kept pace with its population growth since the early 1980s," Hallberg said of the results of the field work.

"The country's dairy industry has the potential to meet a larger proportion of domestic demand, but many Mexican dairies are hampered by remote locations and equipment that generally cannot support the most efficient production levels.

"Until (Mexican) domestic production increases, Mexico will continue to import (dairy products)," Hallberg said. "The country increased milk imports substantially during 1989 and 1990, and virtually all of the increase came from the United States."

However, Hallberg said that most of the increased exporting would come from Southwestern

U.S. dairy production.

"Mexican markets are better served by Southwestern dairies, because the cost of transporting dairy products from Pennsylvania

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Pa. Forage

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operator of Buck and Doe Run Farm in Chester County. The farm is situated on hills and erosion has always been a concern of Elkins. Therefore he began using intensive grazing to both utilize the hill ground and to minimize soil erosion caused by tillage.

Excess pasture production in the spring is harvested as large round bale silage and utilized during the winter for his herd of 65 cows. After several years of grazing, he began to realize that the cool-season forages his system had been based on were not producing sufficient amounts of forage during July and August.

As a solution to this problem, he began using warm-season grasses, various legume species, and recently chicory to fill the "summer slump" in his pasture production.

District Honors

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time operator. The Engles have two children, Roy Martin Engel, Jr. and Bonnie, and have four grandchildren.

Allen and Louise Glick operate a dairy consisting of 40 milk cows. In 1968, Allen began farming in partnership with his father until Allen purchased the 196-acre farm in 1971.

Conservation planning has been part of Glick's conservation agenda since March 1988, when his conservation plan was written. On April 19, 1988, Glick became a Juniata County Conservation District cooperator.

Glick's conservation plan was fully implemented in 1991 with 93.4 acres of conservation cropping system, conservation tillage system, cover crop, and crop residue management put in place. The conservation practices comprise 73.4 acres of contour strip cropping, 1,850 feet of sod waterway, and 3,120 feet of subsurface drain.

Glick applied for and receive a long-term agreement (LTA) with the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) in 1989. The five-year LTA was completed in 1992. About 955 feet of diversions and the installation of a gravity-flow step gutter and manure pit was completed in 1989 to make manure handling easier and more efficient. Glick's current crops include 52 acres of corn, 43 acres of hay, and 15 acres of oats.

Glick rents additional acres from a nearby farm, and all conservation practices were completed in 1992. Recently, a 10,000-pullet house was built and 20,000 pullets are raised for Empire Kosher Poultry each year.

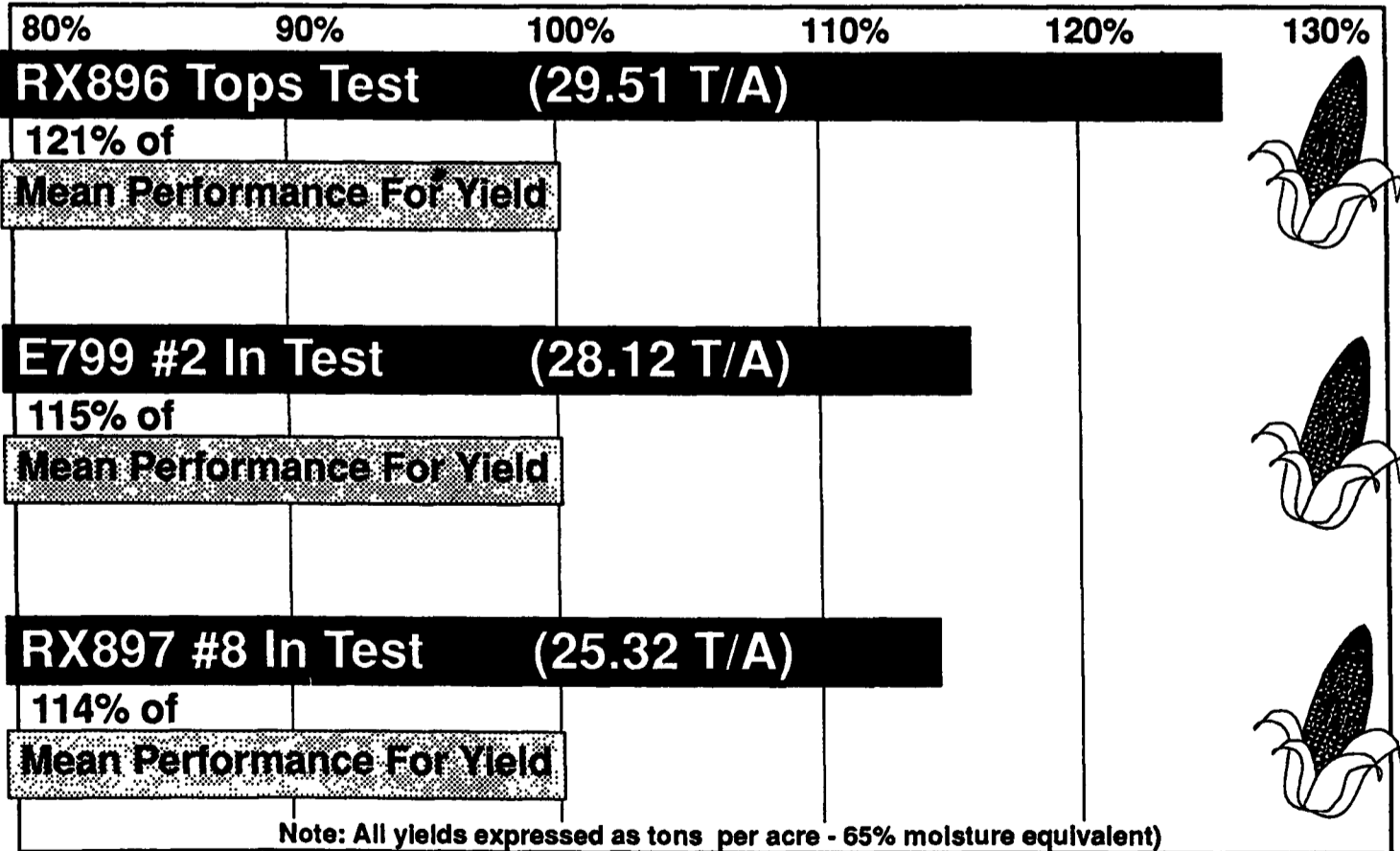
The Glicks have four children, Donna, Valerie, Neil, and Nevin, who have worked with their parents on the family farm. The Glicks have two grandchildren.

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