

# Farm Calendar

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- Host Hotel, Sturbridge, Mass., thru Dec. 16.
- Dairy-MAP winter meeting, Somerset County Area Vo-Tech School, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Leadership Lebanon Valley Ag Day, Lebanon Valley Ag Center.
- Wednesday, December 15**
- Dairy-MAP winter meeting, Bonanza Family Restaurant, Lyndora, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Westmoreland County Cooperative Extension dinner meeting, Mountain View Inn, Greensburg, 7 p.m.
- Veterinary Nutrition Forum, Days Inn, Lancaster, 7 p.m.
- Thursday, December 16**
- Mid-Atlantic Conservation Tillage Conference, Ramada Inn, Hagerstown, Md.
- Pa. Holstein board of directors meeting, State College, 10:30 a.m.
- Pa. Seedman's Association annual meeting, Eden Resort Inn, Lancaster.
- Dairy-MAP, Washington County Extension Office, Washington, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- National Satellite Videoconfer-

ence, Worker Protection Standard for Agricultural Pesticides, Penn State Great Valley, Malvern; Berks Campus, Reading; and Allentown Campus, Fogelsville, noon-3 p.m.

- Friday, December 17**
- Penn State Ag Chemical Compliance School, Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg, 8:45 a.m.
- Dairy-MAP winter meeting, Somerset Area Vo-Tech School, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

- Saturday, December 18**
- Delmarva Meat Goat Conference, U. of Md. Eastern Shore, Princess Anne, Md., 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

- Sunday, December 19**
- Monday, December 20**

- Tuesday, December 21**
- Breeding Priorities for the Commercial Dairyman, Franklin Co. Human Services Building, 10 a.m.-noon.
- Swine meeting, Country Table Restaurant, Mount Joy, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- Alternative Field Crops Seminar, Hegins Fire Company Hall, Hegins, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

# Ridge Presents Ag Issues At Forum

EVERETT NEWSWANGER  
Managing Editor

STRASBURG (Lancaster Co.)—The featured speaker at the monthly Ag Issues breakfast was Tom Ridge, Republican gubernatorial candidate, and U. S. representative (PA-21). Ridge has been an announced candidate for nearly a year, and the first coalition he developed in his campaign was with agriculture.

Ridge said that often agriculture and business are projected as having separate interests, but he said agriculture is big business, and when you merge at the bottom line, the motivation for both is the same.

"Businessmen and farmers both want to make a profit, and they want government to get out of their way so they can operate and make investment decisions," Ridge said. "We have to have a new mind-set that the needs of agriculture are the same as the needs to operate a business. You need a consistent public policy that has stability and predictability so you can go about the operation of your business."

Ridge pledged a well-staffed department of agriculture in his administration with people from agriculture and agri-business to



Tom Ridge, Republican gubernatorial candidate, presents ideas at the Ag Issues Forum.

help oversee and operate the department. He also made a difference between promoting and marketing agricultural products. "Pennsylvania is not doing as good a job as it should be doing in selling Pennsylvania made goods, including exports," Ridge said. "We are the fifth largest state in the country, but we only rank 11 or 12 in exports. With all the agriculture in Pennsylvania, the number one industry, only five percent of the value of goods we export are agricultural products. We can do better, and I will run an export program directly out of the governor's office."

On the subject of wetlands, Ridge said four points are important: we need standard definitions, consistently applied; we need one agency to make the call; we need to recognize that all wetlands are not created equally; we need to acknowledge this fact and classify wetlands according to environmental and ecological importance; and we need to have no taking of private property without just compensation.

Ridge called DER a job-crushing, community-harassing, regulatory agency that would be restructured into a service agency in his administration. "We need rigorous enforcement, but we need to use some energy and commitment to help Pennsylvanians to understand and comply with the law," Ridge said. "DER will no longer exist in my government. The agency needs to be more than enforcement police. DER should work with and for the people."

The Ag Issues Forum is a group of farmers and agri-business leaders who meet each month to hear and discuss subjects of interest to agriculture.

non-fat dry milk powder will command a cheaper value. Even possibly lower blend prices.

Early in the fall the co-ops bloc voted the other National Dairy Board into continued existence. Didn't the co-ops also support B.S.T.? I've checked it out and it's true. All dairy farmers in order #2 lose at least three cents per cwt on our blend price, so the market administrator can pay the order #2 cooperatives four cents per cwt. to help fund the co-ops for market wide services for all dairy farmers. Class III A pricing, B.S.T. 2 National Dairy Boards — Self-Help Program (worth 1 cent per cwt.), Farmers paying for the cost of balancing the market, and dairy farmers pay price at the 1979-1980 level. Is this what our co-op payment provision money goes for?

Like I said — Something is wrong!

Lloyd Gustin

# Farm Forum

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per cwt. on the milk you produce. Now, from what I've read in the papers the U.S.D.A. says it might be one cent per cwt. What a difference! National milk says they want another National Dairy Board to remove two billion lbs. of milk from the so-called surplus pile. The board will attempt to develop new markets, both domestically and in foreign countries. This scheme will be financed by another \$.10 per cwt. assessment on dairy farmers milk. According to news releases issued by Pro Ag and other organizations these two billion lbs. of milk were removed from the so-called surplus pile by the commodity credit

corporation. So what difference does it make who removes the two billion lbs. of milk from the pile. Well it does matter, because under Self-Help all dairy farmers will be assessed to help fund the Dairy Boards Program.

Even with the milk out of the way; dairy farmers prices were still at the 1979-1980 period. That's what I call progress. Now it's revealed that the Self-Help Program calls for the market administrator to deduct even more money from our milk checks to "balance the market".

Recently, the market administrator revealed that on January 1, 1994 we will have class III A pricing. This means milk used for

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