# A Year To Challenge **Understanding**

(Continued from Page A22) Philadelphia, was appointed to begin architectural design work.

A contract for construction of the facility is expected to be awarded in 1994, and the \$6.7 million project is scheduled for completion in 1995.

The CHEMSWEEP program, started two years ago as a pilot program, has grown in popularity.

Through the program, farmers can dispose of certain types of pesticides at no cost to them. There were six counties included in the program during 1993 and nine counties are anticipated to participate in 1994.

To date, more than 85,000 pounds of pesticides have been collected, or are scheduled for collection, according to the PDA.

Farmland protection in Pennsylvania continued to grow this past year, and is expected to expand in

According to the PDA, by the end of 1993, there was land on 381 farms in 25 counties which had sold development rights to the respective counties.

Also this past year, for the first time, a Pennsylvania Farm Show Foundation was formed with funds provided through the sale of junior livestock champions at the 1993 Farm Show.

What had happened was a syndicate of buyers paid \$15,100 for a champion market swine raised by Mark Simmon, of Lebanon. Simmon had said that if he could receive a price of \$5,000 for his swine, he would turn over all the remaining proceeds to establish a scholarship fund.

The scholarship program was

further defined this fall and some of the first awardees can be expected to be announced during the 1994 Farm Show, set to be held Jan. 8 through Jan. 13.

On an international scale, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is also seen widely as beneficial to agriculture and business, both the in the nearterm and long term.

According to Boyd E. Wolff, state secretary of agriculture, exports of Pennsylvania farm products are expected to continue growing at a record pace. The value of agricultural exports from Pennsylvania has more than doubled over the past seven years, according to the PDA.

With the passage of NAFTA, it is expected that exports to Canada and Mexico will increase, he said.

'Participation in international trade shows in 1994 will permit the Department of Agriculture to help foriegn buyers discover quality Pennsylvania products.

"Pennsylvania companies are invited to participate and are provided with the opportunity to easily travel to and evaluate foreign marekts for their many products, such as candy, snacks, grocery items, beverages, lumber, logs and wood."

Also during 1993 was perhaps the biggest Midwestern flood of modern times, with the Mississippi engulfing thousands of acres and homes and farms that weren't even considered to be flood prone.

While the impact of the flood is most directly affecting grain and feed prices, there are many with relatives or friends who suffered great personal losses. And of



From the left, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy sits with U.S. Sen. Patrick Leahy, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, and Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Boyd Wolff, at a national dairy industry meeting in York. Held in June, it is one of the highlights of the past year.

course, as taxpayers, all will feel the impact as federal emergency funds are used to assist communities rebuild.

A number of support and aid efforts to those in Midwest came directly and indirectly from the Pennsylvania agricultural and rural community.

In other news, a Holstein, Robthom Suzet Paddy, born Dec. 1, 1986, this year set a world record for milk production. Paddy recorded a verified 59,300 pounds of milk, 2,297 pounds of fat, and 2,038 pounds of protein in a 365-day lastation with twice-perday milking. Owned by Robert Thomson Jr. of Springfield, Missouri, she peaked at 200 pounds of

milk per day and averaged 162 pounds.

The FFA Foundation also had a "first" this year, with the help of Hoss's Steak and Sea House owner and CEO Bill Campbell, sponsoring a successful fund-raising golfing event featuring a number of celebrities. A follow-up is anticipated for 1994.

The Pennsylvania Farmers'

Association is no longer called as such. The new name is Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, ending decades of having a different name than many of its peer state affiliates to the National Farm Bureau.

Pennsylvania had to use the "Farmers's Association" name because when it formed a nowdefunct commercial business had rights to the Farm Bureau name.

### **Conference Set** Rivers

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) - The Department of Environmental Resources (DER) and the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) will host a threeday conference on the direction of Pennsylvania's river conservation initiatives into the next century, June 20-22, at the Harrisburg Hilton.

The Pennsylvania Rivers 2000 Conference, "Building Partnerships for River Conservation," will present technical and educational topics to guide interested individuals in river conservation strategies and objectives.

The conference will feature discussion by all participants on how business, industry, agricultural, and community leaders can work together to enhance Pennsylvania's river resources. Participants will attend case studies whose partnership efforts have lead to the conservation of rivers and river

Conference attendees also will be able to exchange ideas on the future of river conservation in focus groups on the final day of the conference.

More than 50 regional, state and national experts in river conservation, water resources, and the environment are scheduled to participate in panel discussions, lectures, and focus groups.

The conference will be kicked off with an evening welcoming reception on June 19.

For more information about the conference, call (814) 234-4272.

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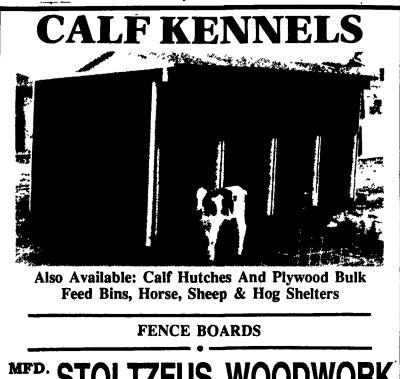
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