

GAY BROWNLEE
Somerset Co. Correspondent
BERLIN (Somerset Co.) —
Three directors of the Somerset
County Holstein Club whose
terms were set to expire this year,

have all been reelected to three-
year terms. They are Jeff Hille-
gass, Berlin, Harry Mosholder,
Rockwood and David Stahl,
Somerset.
Directors whose terms expire in

1995 are Greg Coleman, Rock-
wood; Dan Kimmel, Boswell and
Willard Maust, Meyersdale.
Those ending in 1996 are Mike
Countryman, Berlin; Jane Smiley,
Berlin and Mike Stutzman,

Stoystown.
The election was held during
the business session that followed
dinner at the club's annual meet-
ing; rescheduled when yet another
blizzard blasted the area and sen-

sible folks stayed home instead of
traveling anywhere.
But March weather is unpre-
dictable. So when some vagary of
the season took the sunny tempera-
ture to a balmy 70 degrees on
banquet day, not a soul was com-
plaining. The doors of the local
fire hall were thrown open and
overhead fans switched on to
whirr with the intruding robin's
cheep.

Youth awards were presented
by Jane Smiley and Ben Miller,
president of the Somerset Co.
Junior Holstein Club.

The county two-yr. old winner
for milk, fat and protein was Nick
Hunsberger's BJ-Line Winken
Roseann at 2-08, 27,066M, 908F
and 910P.

Second place two-yr. old for
milk and protein was Michele
Countryman's Lansdown Dazzler
Satin, 1-11, 24,727M, 796P.

Two-yr. old in second place for
fat was Antrim-Spring Insp Reina
owned by Justin Hillegass, 884F.

Three-yr. old Somerset Co.
winner for milk, fat and protein,
owned by Kirsten Miller, was

Chester-Delaware Farmers Hold Spring Meeting

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff

WEST, FALLOWFIELD (Chester Co.) — About 80 of the 751 members of the Chester-Delaware Farm Bureau attended the organization's 41st annual spring banquet meeting Thursday night at the West Fallowfield Christian School to share fellowship and recognize some of the support provided by members and political leaders.

The Chester-Delaware group is comprised of a mixture of representatives of farming activities, especially mushroom growers and horse enthusiasts, in addition to dairy, livestock and poultry producers.

The affiliate of the state Farm Bureau has yet to officially adopt its new name, but is using it until the fall meeting, when it annually conducts its business meeting and reviews proposals.

The purpose of the spring meeting, according to Barclay Hoopes, president of the Chester-Delaware FB, is to inform the members about the association's current programs and services. It is not a policy development meeting.

Similar spring banquets across the state are likewise held at this time because it is prior to spring field work and after the organization's national and state legislative tours. During the tours, representatives of county and state affiliates visit with elected representatives to voice concerns.

The Chester-Delaware group is especially concerned with local tax reform, being in an area which has received heavy pressure from urbanization that has increased land values because of commuters. The commuters who work in high salary areas have brought to recently rural areas an ability to pay more for real estate than locally employed residents.

That alone has resulted in an increase in local real estate taxes.

In addition, the increase in residential growth has also increased the demand for services and has increased local taxes.

On Thursday, the Chester-Delaware group presented an award to state Rep. James Gerlach, R-Coatesville, for his efforts in sponsoring state House Bill 2202. The proposed legislation calls for local tax reform and would enable local taxing authorities, in municipalities beneath a certain level of population, to tax income or use a local sales tax, as an alternative to taxing real estate.

For agriculturalists, especially, taxing real estate is burdensome because it does not reflect an ability to pay, but rather is considered a tax on investment.

Deriving more local tax revenues from income would lessen the burden on those with high real estate investment, but low margin, while allowing more of the share of local taxes to come from commuters with higher income.

The move is seen as a more equitable method of taxing on ability to pay for services rendered.

As the situation currently exists, studies have shown that agricultural landowners receive less in local services than they pay in taxes, while residential developments receive more in services than they pay in taxes.

Gerlach, in his second term as representative, is also a member of the Chester County Agricultural Development Council.

Colin Johnston, a veterinarian at New Bolton Center and secretary of the Chester-Delaware County Farm Bureau, made the award presentation and cited Gerlach for his strength in character for being willing to "... cross political party lines for agricultural interests."

Gerlach's proposal passed the Democratically controlled House of Representatives by a vote of 177-19.

The group also recognized work done by Ray Pickering, who is executive director fo the Chester County Agricultural Land Preservation Board.

According to Johnston and Hoopes, the local association is proud of the efforts of community leaders to establish and see through an aggressive farmland preservation program.

In that respect, the group also recognized Patricia Baldwin, a former county commissioner for her efforts for the agricultural community.

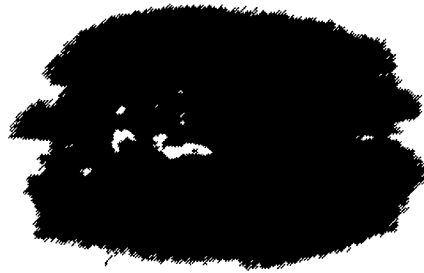


State Rep. Art Hershey discusses legislative actions with members of the Chester-Delaware Farm Bureau.



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