

Bedford Farmers Hold Banquet

LINDA WILLIAMS
Bedford Co. Correspondent
BEDFORD (Bedford Co.) — "Too often we are so shackled by the negatives, we fail to see the positives," Keith Eckel, president of Pennsylvania Farm Bureau told the members of the Bedford County Farmers' Association, at its annual spring banquet, held recently at the Northern Bedford High School, in Bedford.

Eckel declared that the American farmers could never grow enough food to feed the growing population. "They will not be able to produce enough feed to feed the horses it will take to grow crops just for them, let alone the people."

A negative prediction proven wrong, Eckel said.

"And," Eckel said, "we will see more positive changes in agriculture from the 20th century to the 21st than we did from the 19th to the 20th."

Eckel said he firmly believes that the American farmer produces the best of all foods in the world and he has tremendous faith in the future of marketing these foods.

He said the opening of world trade will have a tremendous impact on the exportation of food.

"Our main concerns will be with the elitists," Eckel said. "The animal rights groups, the food safety advocates, they all want a perfect type of world based on emotional decisions."

Wayne Extension Celebrates 75th

HONESDALE (Wayne Co.) — Wayne County Cooperative Extension celebrates 75 years of providing research-based information to the citizens of Wayne County this year.

To mark this occasion, the Wayne County Extension staff and board members are inviting everyone to an open house at the Extension office in the basement of the Wayne County Courthouse in Honesdale, on Thursday, April

14 from 4 to 6 p.m.

Extension agents will have exhibits set up to highlight educational programs they are currently working on. There will also be free information available on such topics as gardening, parenting, the new food guide pyramid and food labels, the 4-H program, food safety, water quality, Lyme Disease and much more.

For the history buffs there will be a slide show featuring many

folks from the community at Extension programs from the 30's, 40's, 50's and 60's. Also on hand will be scrapbooks filled with pictures and articles of past Extension activities to help folks take a walk down memory lane.

Refreshments, including an anniversary cake, fresh fruits and vegetables, punch and coffee, will be served.

"We make up 2 percent of the population but we have a lot of clout," he said.

Norman Sollenberger presented the legislative report and urged farmers to make themselves heard in Harrisburg. "We need to speak out against strangling rules and regulations," he said.

The meeting was organized and chaired by Ken Mowry, president of the Bedford County Association.

In other business, Amy Mearkle, Bedford County dairy princess made a plea for candidates for the annual princess contest.

Other officers who attended included Fred Claycomb, vice president, Betty O'Neal, secretary, and Pauline Yoder, treasurer.

Benefit Sale

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"A lot of people put a great deal of time into this event," said Walt Wurster, dairy agent in Chester County. "We wouldn't have been able to do this without them."

Another general auction is scheduled May 21 in Downingtown, according to Wurster. More information will be available at a later date.

"The Chester County extension office would like to give a big 'thank you' to all who donated animals and other supplies, and to those who got it done," said Wurster.

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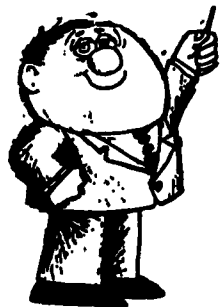
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