

**GET DER OFF YOUR BACK.
VOTE FOR RIDGE MAY 10.**

Tom Ridge tells DER to shape up



Tom Ridge, who's seeking the Republican nomination for governor May 10, leads top-selling Penn-Gate Leadman Faith at recent Pennsylvania Holstein Association's Convention Sale. As a congressman in rural northwest Pa., he understands agriculture and promises a farmer-friendly administration.

Don't get Tom Ridge started on the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources. He's had it up to here with DER's strong arm tactics.

A six-term congressman from Erie, he has long championed farmer rights on wetlands and other environmental issues at the federal level.

Now as a candidate seeking the Republican nomination for governor, Ridge has taken direct aim at DER.

"We can protect the environment without crippling the farmer's ability to compete," Ridge insists. Here's how he plans to do it:

Take an axe to DER, splitting it into two smaller, more responsive departments. One handling environmental protection, the other overseeing state parks and forests.

Put halter on DER bullies. The new DER will be a "partner of farmers rather than prosecutor," Ridge insists.

Speed up permit process immediately with an executive order and provide exemptions for normal farming practices. "We shouldn't make farmers wait months before using their land," Ridge says.

Involve farmers and others in the decision making before regulations are written. Result: fairer, more workable regs.

Work one on one with farmers trying to cope with new regulations. No more "you figure it out". Under Ridge it will be, "We'll work together."

Ag Coalition for RIDGE/SCHWEIKER

Dan Cook, chairman.

Farmers for Ridge, Dennis Grumbine, chairman.

Agribusiness for Ridge, Mike Brubaker, chairman.

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