

Get Involved, Bedford Farmers Told

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Bedford Co. Correspondent

IMLER (Bedford Co.) — Sam Hayes, 22 years a state representative, from Huntingdon, spoke on his recent trip to Poland at the fall meeting of the Bedford County Farmers' Association.

"Poland," Hayes said, "is further ahead in farming than other countries that were behind the Iron Curtain

"And, the reason is because many of the Polish people were able to hold on to their land and farm it themselves."

The results brought about a stark contrast between the individually owned land and the Polish state farms.

Hayes asked if anyone in the room farmed as much as 800 acres. Getting several hands, he then asked how many people worked that land.

"Five," was the answer, with others in a similar status being in agreement.

Seminar

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Those who wish to learn more about exporting Pennsylvania agricultural and food products should attend a special seminar being offered by the state Department of Agriculture on Oct. 12 at the Harrisburg Area Community College.

The focus of the seminar, "Pennsylvania, USA — Travels Into Trade," is to help those wishing to learn more about exporting agricultural and processed agricultural products. It is not intended for equipment manufacturers nor non-agricultural interests.

The seminar is being sponsored by the PDA Domestic and International Trade Division, in conjunction with the Eastern United States Agriculture and Food Export Council (EUSAFEC).

It is to be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the Wildwood Conference Center of HACC, located in Harrisburg, near the state PDA building. Registration is \$25, which includes a lunch. To register call Peter Witmer at the PDA Domestic and International Trade Division at (717) 783-3181.

"In Poland," Hayes said, "An 800 acre state farm had 700 employees. Is it any wonder there was little unemployment behind the Iron Curtain?"

Polish farms today average 8.8 acres in size and technology is about 1935-40, by American comparison.

Hayes introduced two Polish exchange students presently staying with his own family who are in America studying Agriculture. "It will not take Poland long to catch up with our standards," Hayes feels. "The Polish people have a very strong religious and spiritual strength. They are willing to learn and to work hard."

Noting the importance of keeping on top of government regulations in regards to farming, Hayes quoted a Polish friend who said, "It is much easier to lose your freedom than it is to gain it back."

Naomi Sollenberger, local representative to the Ag in the Classroom project, reported on the excellence of this program. "We need more ag related subjects taught in the schools," she said. "I am going to share all of the information and materials I got with other teachers."

Harold Shaulis Jr., Farm Bureau, District Director, reported "Dairy prices are about as high as they are going to get so we must have better management practices."

Resolutions recently drafted at the state Farmers' Association meeting were discussed and voted upon under the direction of Vice President Fred Claycomb.

All were accepted with the exception of having R.D. addresses remain the same when 911 becomes operational. Those in attendance felt this would be a detriment to the emergency teams needing more precise directions on locations.

• State regulations easily accepted included exemption for casual labor be set at \$1,000 under Workmen's Compensation Law.

• Bicycle riders should be required to wear reflective clothing or lighted indicator for dawn or dusk riding.

• County Farm Bureaus should give their approval to personnel making decisions on deprivation permits in their individual coun-

ties.

Norman Sollenberger, chairman of the Governmental Relations Committee, said, "No longer should weather and animals be our number one concern. But rather, what is going on in Washington and Harrisburg. There are many special interest groups that want to dictate how we should farm; through environmental laws, regulations, wetland laws, farm subsidy laws, animal rights laws, water use laws, and tax reforms."

Sollenberger said Bedford County is fortunate to have representatives such as Rep. Dick Hess, Rep. Jerry Stern, and Sen. Robert Jubelirer who work hard

to protect the farmer. "But they need help," he warned. "Get involved, write your representatives, keep yourself updated on new laws and regulations and speak up for agriculture!"

Ken Mowry, president of the Bedford County organization congratulated the group on having a total of more than 485 members. He also reported that total farm income in Bedford County amounted to fifty-nine million, three thousand, three hundred and thirty-seven dollars in 1993.

The meeting was held at the Imler Fire Hall. Numerous door prizes collected by Gerald Mowry were awarded at the conclusion of the meeting.

Families Honored In York County

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and the Chamber of Commerce.

Cited for serving as Farm Visitation Day hosts were Richard and Gail Dennis, Hidden Lane Farm, Spring Grove R5; Michael Rishel, American Seed Co. and Carleton Snack Foods, Spring Grove R3; Charles Brown, Glatfelter Tree Farms, Spring Grove; Rodger and Betty Laughman, Laughman Sawmill and Mountain Mulch, Spring Grove R3; David and Norma Lucabaugh, Sunnyside L. Farm, Spring Grove R2; James and Sandra Bailey, Spring Grove R2; and Edwin and Carolyn Calhoun, Glen Rock R2.

Honored for their roles as hosts for the annual Farm-City Tour were Scott Kurtzman, P.H. Glatfelter Company, Spring

Grove; Gary Dean for Ralston Purina Company, Camp Hill; Robert Berkheimer, Berkheimer Dairy Farm, Mechanicsburg; and Terry Laird, Warrington Hunt Club, Rossville.

In the annual Ag Day exchange, representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and York County farmers pair up to host each other at their respective jobs for a day. Ag Day exchangees recognized for their 1992 participation were Keith Bashore and Chris Reilly, York County Chamber of Commerce and Jim Bailey, Bailey's Egg Production; Bob Gingerich and Ellen O'Conner, who exchanged with crops and livestock producer David Sprengle III; Jonathan Holmes, C. S. Davidson, Inc., and his exchange

partner Jeff Heindel, Heindel Dairy Farm; Art St. Onge, St. Onge Company and Dick Naylor, Naylor Wine Cellars, Inc.; John Staub, Crowley Frozen Desserts and Jack DeHoff, DeHoff Dairy Farm; Craig Reimers, Harley Davidson, Inc., and Stanley Brown, Brown's Orchards.

Featured speaker was Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Boyd Wolff. Secretary Wolff highlighted key programs of the Agriculture Department, including farmland preservation accomplishments, plans for the construction of a new animal health diagnostic lab in Harrisburg and intensified measures to track and control avian flu after a recent limited outbreak of the poultry disease.

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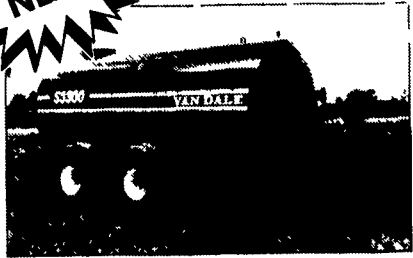
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