

Farmers Seek Greener Future At PASA Conference

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Despite dire predictions of snow, more than 450 farmers and supporters seeking more practical, profitable, and environmentally friendly methods of growing crops and raising livestock attended the fourth annual "Farming for a Greener Future" conference held recently in State College.

Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA) sponsored the event, which drew a diverse crowd. Attendees ranged from organic farmers to conventional farmers, from vegetable and fruit growers to dairy farmers and livestock producers, as well as consumers and educators.

A highlight of the meeting was an inspiring keynote address by Tom Frantzen of Practical Farmers of Iowa. Frantzen converted his 320-acre farm from a confinement hog operation to a diversified operation that includes grazing hogs, a multiple grain rotation, and agroforestry. To do so, he used a decision-making model for total farm planning called "holistic resource management."

"Farmers and the whole world have problems, but we have to start to look at the world holistically," Frantzen said. "We can't reduce complex problems to one cause and look for one quick-fix solution. We need to seek to cooperate not compete with ourselves.

We all need to be figuring out how to squeeze the next farmer in, not out." Frantzen challenged those in attendance to work with the non-farm community and to see them as allies. "Do we need to educate them about our issues? Sure! But we need to listen to them, too; they are part of the equation."

Other sessions addressed grass-based farming and rotational grazing for dairy and other livestock, improving soil health, early and late season vegetable production, reducing sprays in fruit, innovative marketing techniques, several sessions on composting, and sustainable ag education. The meetings emphasized ways farmers can produce and market high-quality food and at the same time minimize chemical inputs and agriculture's impact on the environment while maintaining profitability.

In several sessions New Zealand dairy grazer Doug Parker and Wisconsin dairyman Joe Meudt told how after years of using confinement feeding, many dairy operators are looking differently at their pasture resources. Nearly 100 farmers participated in a farmer-to-farmer discussion on how rotational, or intensive, grazing can provide an excellent feed source while reducing costs, soil erosion and other inputs associated with harvested feeds. The group also pointed out that grass-

based farming doesn't require as much machinery investment as conventional methods, so young people can get into farming with less debt.

Those interested in improving soil health discussed composting and using soil amendments, matching cover crops to cropping systems, and the connection between healthy soils and healthy animals. Will Brinton of Woods End Research Lab presented intriguing discussions on the production of compost, using compost to suppress disease, and the economics of composting. Marianne Sarantonio of Slippery Rock University captivated a large audience on the art and science of incorporating cover crops into the rotation. Organic grain producers discussed how they derive nitrogen for their grain from legumes.

Others at the meeting explored marketing opportunities with grocery chains and restaurants, and ways to start community farmers' markets. Community-supported agriculture, where customer-members buy farm shares, was discussed as a way to help re-establish relationships between farmers and consumers. Consumers learned about what it takes to produce food while getting high-quality, locally-grown fruits and vegetables.

Farmers also learned about growing vegetable transplants in no-till conditions with a new transplanter developed at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. This transplanter, already tested successfully in tomatoes in Lackawanna County, will be tried in several Pennsylvania locations this season.

PASA Elects New Officers
Also during the conference, PASA members held their annual meeting, electing a new member to the board of directors and continuing the terms of four current directors.

Elected to her first term was Jonda Crosby, of Berks County, project associate for the Regional Infrastructure for Sustaining Agriculture (RISA) program. Crosby was raised on and is still involved in her family's Western New York dairy operation.

Re-elected were Phil Rzewnicki, Blair Cooperative Extension; Bob Junk, Pennsylvania Farmers Union; Bud Glendening, organic vegetable producer, Armstrong County; and Tom Stickle, grain and venison producer, Westmoreland County.

Sustainable Agriculture Leadership Award
Also during the conference, PASA presented its third Pennsyl-

vania Sustainable Agriculture Leadership Award, which is presented annually to an individual or organization in Pennsylvania that exemplifies outstanding leadership and innovation in furthering sustainable agriculture in the state and beyond.

Joining previous years' winners, Robert Rodale and Paul Keene, was this year's choice: Herb Cole, Jr., professor of plant pathology at Penn State, Co-Director of SANRUE, and long-time friend of Pennsylvania.

Citing a long list of deeds supporting Pennsylvania farmers and sustainable agriculture, PASA presented Cole with a large plaque honoring him as "an advocate for changes in agriculture that will sustain farmers now and in the future."

For more information on "Farming for the Future" or PASA, contact Tim Bowser or Averie Clark at (814) 349-9856.

THE GOOD NEWS YOU CAN HAVE BETTER PRICES

Yes, Mr. Dairyman, you can have a part in setting your own milk price. Find out how by attending our next meeting.

Learn about the NFO and its philosophy on getting fair prices for producers.

If you're interested, please come to our meeting on Feb. 28 at the fire hall in White Horse, Route 340, Lancaster Co. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Free meals included.

Call
1-800-221-1718

Transportation Provided.
Call 717-442-8745

YOU CAN HAVE BETTER PRICES

Lowest SCC Pennsylvania DHIA Herds For January

The lowest SCC herds in Pennsylvania below 150,000 for January 1994 are listed as follows:

63,000 JOSEPH E SNYDER
65,000 R C & J R SHOEMAKER
75,000 HIGHLAND H FARMS
91,000 CHARLIE PENT
93,000 JER-RAE FARM
99,000 LA FAY FARM
99,000 JAMES/CINDE GROSSMAN
99,000 JERRY&KATHY BEARY
100,000 NANCY WEIL
101,000 CLAIR E GARBER
104,000 CARL W ALLEN
106,000 JOHN BONNIE RENDRICK
108,000 REUBEN EVERITT
109,000 JOSEPH A HARIM
110,000 RICHARD H GEISINGER
110,000 JOHN BENSOTER BW
111,000 HUNSINGER FARM
114,000 NABARBIL FARMS
114,000 CHARLES M REATING JR
114,000 DETWILER HILL DAIRY
115,000 HIDDEN FOX FARM
117,000 VINCENT A WAGNER
118,000 MICHAEL BOHONIR
120,000 THOMAS E WALKER
121,000 JOHN & SANA BYLER
122,000 BAXER FARM
122,000 ROBERT C BRONSON
123,000 RON T BETH RUFFANER
126,000 TWIN STATES FARM INC
128,000 HEATHER&STEVE SHARER
129,000 CULBERTSON GREEN FM
129,000 ENPET FARMS
129,000 GREG T SHERYL SEELEYE
130,000 SCOTT &RHONDA LOVELL
130,000 STEWART FARX AYRSHIRE
131,000 ALLS SCHNAKENBURG
132,000 TURTLE ROCK FARM
132,000 DALE R PETTY
133,000 WILLIAM CHAMBERLAIN
135,000 RANSONED RANSOMDAIRY
136,000 MACKS AYRSHIRE FARM
136,000 MIKE MCCRAY

CITY AND STATE
MILLMONT
CHAMBERSBURG
BROCKRAY
BELLEVILLE
SHIPPENSBURG
LEWISTOWN
HONESDALE
CRANBERRY
EDINBORO
CHAMBERSBURG
GRANVILLE SUMMIT
MAINESBURG
BRACKNEY
DUNBAR
KUTZTOWN
LACEYVILLE
SPRINGVILLE
MIDDLEBURG
LAKE ARIEL
CONNELLSVILLE
MARTINSBURG
MYERSTOWN
WEST MIDDLESEX
MEYERSDALE
ALLENSVILLE
COLUMBIA CROSS RDS
BLOOMSBURG
NORTHINGTON
SUGAR GROVE
LACEYVILLE
CHAMBERSBURG
KINGSLEY
CANTON
LINDEN
ROME
EQUINUNK
BLAIN
CANTON
COVINGTON
NICHOLSON
PEN ARGYL
CORRY

137,000 MERLE WATSON
137,000 LINDEN-HILLS FARM
137,000 CASSYLE VALLEY ACRES MMEL
138,000 JOHN BENSOTER
138,000 DANA FUNK
138,000 TRINCA FARM
139,000 RICHARD O SMITH
139,000 W J & V J MC CHESNEY
139,000 WILLIAM&ELAINE WOOD
140,000 SCOER SNYDER
141,000 MT HEMPFIELD HOLS
141,000 APPLEHORST FARMS
141,000 JANES T KARLA LEVY
141,000 ORNER FASS INC
142,000 RUTTERS
143,000 FLOYD&GARY RINEHIMER
144,000 KORE E YODER
144,000 TOX AND LORI HARTLE
145,000 CROOKED ACRES DAIRY
145,000 EYDMONT FARMS
145,000 DAVE&DOUG LEHMAN
145,000 RALPH HAY
146,000 JOHN D BOXGARDNER
146,000 ROY&RUTH GREENLEY
146,000 RONALD PECK
146,000 RAY CLAYPOOLE & SONS
147,000 ROGER ALEXANDER
147,000 KENT HOFFER
147,000 K&Q SWISS
147,000 CLARENCE L MOWRY
148,000 WINGARD DAIRY FARM
148,000 CHAS&MARIANNE ROGERS
148,000 BRUCE R HEILINGER
148,000 DOUGT.JOANNE WESNESKI
148,000 LONGACRE FARM
148,000 CANON DAIRY
148,000 IRISHTOWN ACRES
149,000 DARYL BUTTON
149,000 DAN BONHAM
149,000 DALE&PATTIE MAULFAIR
150,000 MARION PYLE STONE
150,000 GARY BAITY
150,000 WILLIALLT BRYAN LOPER
150,000 PAUL M SNYDER

COL CROSS ROADS
LINDEN
HOLBROOK
LACEYVILLE
CHAMBERSBURG
REBERSBURG
NEW HOPE
NEW GALILEE
JACKSON
VOLANT
GREENVILLE
DILLSBURG
CLEARVILLE
ROCKTON
YORK
WAPWALLOPEN
BELLEVILLE
BELLEFONTE
NEW HOPE
LIBERTY PA
CARLISLE
MILL RUN
ONO
TUNKHANNOCK
PLEASANT MOUNT
WORTHINGTON
MANSFIELD
LEBANON
DENVER
SMICKSBURG
BROCKWAY
COGAN STATION PA
NEWMANSTOWN
ROARING BRANCH PA
SUSQUEHANNA
WEST MIDDLESEX
GROVE CITY
NICHOLSON
KINGSLEY
JONESTOWN
BETHANY
COVINGTON
WATERFORD
SHIPPENSBURG

