

# Pa. Celebrates Ag Day

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ture employs 21 million people, 18 percent of the labor force."

Further citing agriculture's productivity, Secretary Brosius noted that an average family of four consumes some 5,000 pounds of food annually, and spends the smallest percentage of disposable income for food, 11.4 percent, of any of the world's major industrialized nations.

By comparison, he related, Japanese consumers spend 21 per-

cent of their disposable income on food, Italians spend 26 percent, while in China, food takes 53 percent of consumer's income.

In celebration of National Agriculture Day, Secretary Brosius was presented a gift basket of Pennsylvania fruit and related commodity items by Penn's Agri-Women, which initiated the Ag Day luncheon buffet at the Capitol several years ago.

A second basket was sent to

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## Penn's Agri-Women Support For You

**HARRISBURG** (Dauphin Co.)—The annual Ag Day buffet in the Capitol's beautiful East Wing Rotunda originated about 10 years ago as an agriculture education program of Penn's Agri-Women.

Penn's Agri-Women (PAW) was formed in October, 1977, as a state affiliate of the national organization, American Agri-Women (AAW).

Agri-Women's motto is: "We can do it...together." In its mission statement, "Call To Power," Agri-Women's founders acknowledge that food is a global concern and accept the responsibilities of supporting American agriculture and the family.

"In a sense, we are to the farmer what a public relations firm and an advertising agency are to other multi-million dollar business," stated charter member Gail McPherson, York County, a founder of both AAW and PAW, and current state treasurer.

Membership encompasses numerous commodities, giving members the opportunity to learn about other types of agriculture while working together on goals common to the combined ag community. Training members for public relations and public speaking enables them to be more effective carriers of the agriculture message.

Education of consumers and the non-farming community has, and continues to be, a key focus of Agri-Women. To that end, Agri-Women remains active in such events as National Agriculture Day, development of Ag In The Classroom programs, testifying at state and national governmental hearings and maintaining ongoing contact with state and national legislative representatives.



From the left, Sue Lamborn, Jean Beck and Becky Gross, chairwoman of the Penn's Agri-Women Ag Day Luncheon Committee, keep busy filling trays of Pennsylvania-produced foods to served an estimated 1,000 legislators, staffers and guests of the state Capitol event.

Agri-Women extends a membership invitation to all women interested in the preservation and promotion of agriculture. Penn's Agri-Women's annual dues of \$15 include membership in both PAW and AAW, and may be sent to treasurer Gail McPherson, 252 East Maple Lawn Road, New Park, PA 17352.

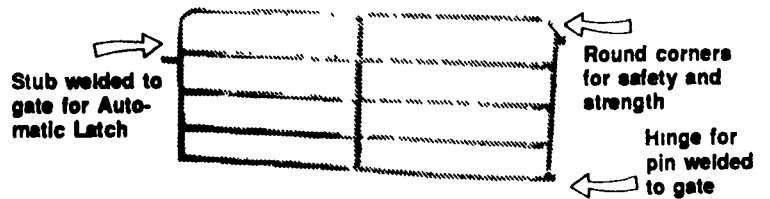
Please include complete name, address, county, telephone number and agriculture commodity(s) produced. For more information, contact Gail McPherson at (717) 382-4878 or PAW president Pat Sueck, (717) 862-3486.

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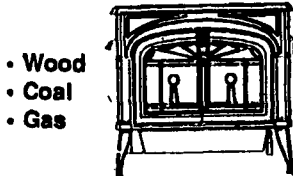
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