

PCA Honors Members At Banquet

GAIL STROCK
Mifflin Co. Correspondent
STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — Keeping an eye on legislation that affects how we farm seems to be the recurring theme at many farm organization meetings and annual conventions.

The same rang true for the Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association (PCA) when they scheduled Greg Ruehle as the featured speaker for the 21st Annual Cattlemen's

Banquet and Membership Meeting held recently at Toftrees Resort. Ruehle, director of the National Cattlemen's Association (NCA) in Washington, D.C., updated members about property rights protection, the Endangered Species Act, inspection reform and user fees, the 1995 Farm Bill, tax reform, Clean Water Act reform, welfare and food-assistance reform, the federal budget, foreign trade, and animal drug availability.

"The change in Congress has had a profound effect on issues important to members," Ruehle said. "When it comes to property rights protection, we are looking for more omnibus coverage."

The National Cattlemen's Association supports S605, which would require federal agencies to analyze the impact of taking land prior to action. It would also outline compensation should property value be reduced by regulations

and would provide alternatives to litigation when dealing with property-rights violations.

Ruehle illustrated how the Endangered Species Act (ESA) effects not only property owners but also the surrounding communities. NCA supports reform of the current species and habitat lists, and wants recognition of the importance of private property rights and resulting ESA impact.

NCA recognizes the need to

update the outdated Meat Inspection Act of 1907 and the Poultry Product Inspection Act to reduce inequities in the system. Ruehle also said NCA opposes user fees for inspection.

As for the 1995 Farm Bill, NCA supports a market-oriented farm bill and opposes disproportionate cuts in agricultural budgets for programs such as research, animal health, meat inspection, and market promotion.

"Cattle production is a generational activity," Ruehle said concerning tax reform. "The way it is taxed now, it's almost impossible to pass on a self-sustaining, viable farm operation." NCA is working toward reduction of capital gains taxes and estate taxes, and toward 100 percent deductibility of health insurance premiums for the self-employed.

As for Clean Water Act Reform, Ruehle said there has never been a legislative definition of wetlands. HR961, which NCA supports, provides for voluntary, nonpoint source programs with incentives, exemption of normal agricultural activities from Section 404 of the Wetlands provision, and private property rights protection.

Ruehle touched on the importance of keeping beef as the cornerstone in creating nutritious school lunches.

NCA supports the balanced budget amendment to the Constitution and presidential line-item veto authority.

As for foreign trade, Ruehle said beef stands to gain because of NAFTA. Ruehle said the U.S. is the lowest cost producer of the highest quality of beef and high quality beef is in demand in Japan and Korea.

Ruehle forecasts a glut of beef going into the summer months but praises the efforts of the Market Promotion Program from the USDA. It works along with beef checkoff dollars to help open foreign markets.

NCA supports legislation to speed the drug approval process.

"We want a safe product that is efficient for users, but the degree of testing increases the cost for users. We need a balance."

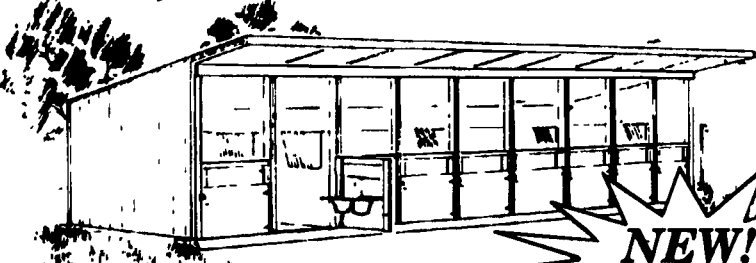
Ruehle talked about public image programs of the NCA, including the Environmental Stewardship Program.

"It is gaining acceptance with organizations such as the National Wildlife Federation, the Audubon Society, and the New York Times," Ruehle said. "Many of these programs are a result of the checkoff program funding these

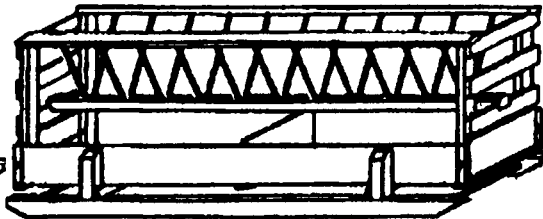
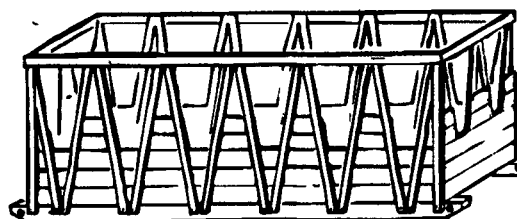
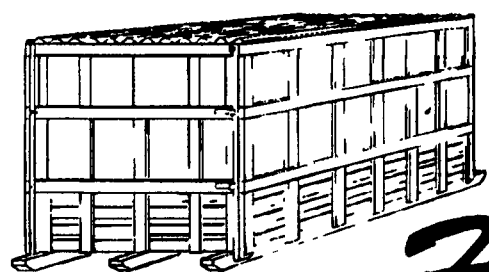
(Turn to Page A30)

Shelters & Feeders ALLENSVILLE PLANING

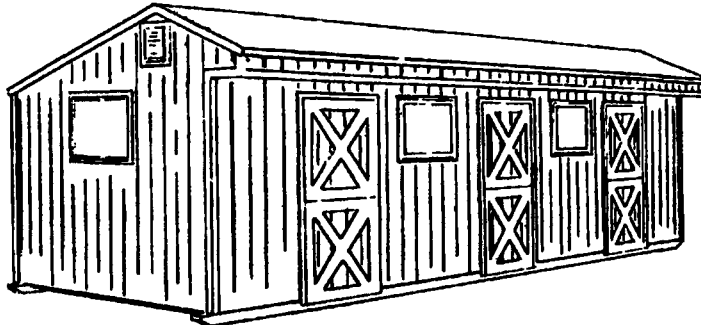
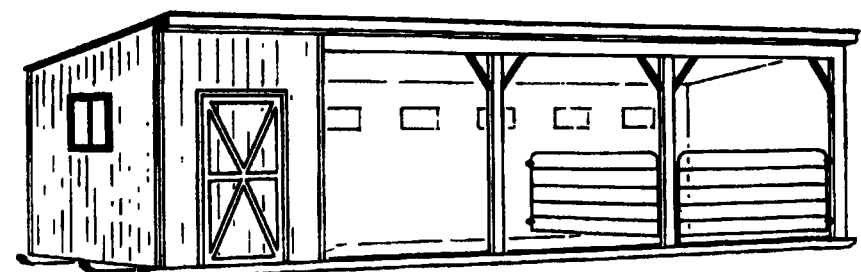
Calf Condo



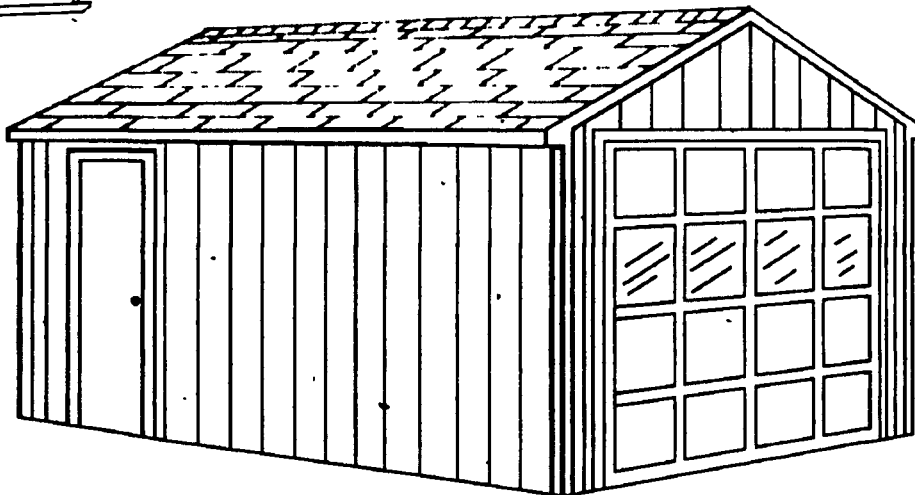
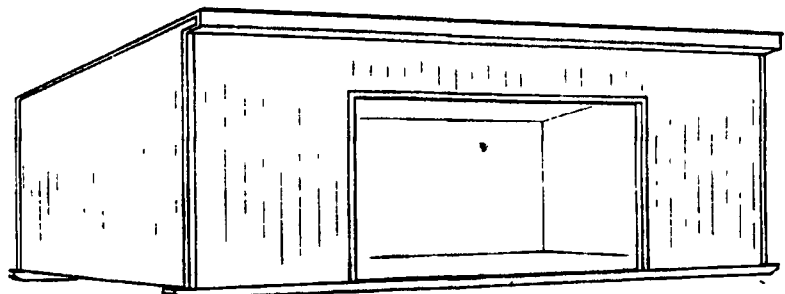
Controlled environment keeps calves healthier!



Hay & Silage Feeders



Horse Barns & Cattle Shelters



Redi-Built Garages

Whatever your Farm need.
Call ALLENSVILLE PLANING
MILL where Quality counts.

ALLENSVILLE PLANING MILL

108 E. MAIN STREET
ALLENSVILLE PA.
PHONE: (717) 483-6386
(800) 322-1306



Call Dave (ext. 146) for additional information and Price Quotes.