

New Pennsylvania Ag Secretary At Farm Council

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

"With an organization like this, when you go to the legislators and the governor's staff with a common voice and say, 'This is what agriculture needs, wants, and why we need it,' then what you say starts to be heard," said Charles Brosius, new Pennsylvania ag secretary.

Brosius has been in office four weeks, and he was speaking to members of the Pennsylvania Council of Farm Organizations as they continued their annual meeting for consideration of resolutions and by-laws changes. The earlier Feb. 6 meeting was cut short to begin the annual Cornucopia, sponsored by the Council and held for legislators in the Capitol.

"If we speak with one voice or practically one voice, we can accomplish what we need to happen," Brosius said. "We farmers say we don't have much voice, but don't believe it. I don't believe it.

Everyone who sits down to the table three times a day or carries a lunch bag is dependent on farmers. We need to be responsible to supply good, wholesome food to those people. And we take a lot of pride in doing that. But we need to blow our own horn once in a while.

"We have the safest food supply in the world, as well as the cheapest. Only 11 cents of the income dollar goes for food in our country. No other country, not even England at 25 to 26 cents, comes close. In poor countries, a man needs to work 10 hours per day to feed his family. We have a cheap food supply, but we can use that to our advantage if we look at it in a posi-

tive way," Brosius said.

Brosius introduced his new press secretary, Sally Bair, from Lancaster County. Ms. Bair has a broad range of communication and management skills that make her a logical choice to run PDA's press office and provide communication service from the department to farmers, agribusiness, and the general public.

Chris Herr, director of ag development under Secretary Boyd Wolff from the last administration, has been named the new legislative policy development director, and Walt Peechatka, who was acting secretary until Brosius was named, continues as a deputy secretary. Brosius had high praise for Peechatka's efforts in the operation of the department over the transition period.

Dennis Grumbine has been named Farm Show Director and has pledged to work to make the

Farm Show Complex the showplace for Pennsylvania agriculture that it should be.

Brosius said bids have been opened for construction of a new \$6.7 million animal health laboratory to be built adjacent to the department offices on Cameron Street in Harrisburg. And beginning July 1, inspections of 18,000 eating and drinking establishments will be transferred from DER to PDA. The budget provides \$1.24 million in personnel costs to support 24 inspectors and operating costs. In addition, Brosius said that in the Nutrient Management program, only the certification of inspectors falls in the work of PDA. But he is in communication with DER to help make this regulatory agency become more oriented toward education and farm friendliness.

The Council's new president, Laura England, Atlantic Dairy Cooperative, presided at the meeting.

Adams County Holstein Breeders Tour

THOMAS PIPER
Adams Co. Extension
Dairy Agent

GETTYSBURG (Adams Co.) — Foundation breeding stock, state-of-the-art reproduction technology, modern dairy facilities, and profitable subsidiary enterprises—Adams County Holstein breeders saw it all when they toured northern York and Lancaster Counties on April 4.

Some 45 members of dairy families made the trip, departing Gettysburg at 8:15 a.m.

At Beshore Farms near New Cumberland in York County, Jed Beshore is a third generation owner-manager. The farm received the Dairy of Distinction Award in 1992 and has been a recipient of the Progressive Breeder and Progressive Genetics Awards. Jed's father, E. Wayne Beshore in 1994 was inducted into the Pennsylvania Holstein Hall of Fame.

The herd of 45 registered Holsteins has been the subject for embryo transfer work and special matings which has resulted in 15 bulls sold to the artificial insemination industry within the past five years.

In discussing his farm management practices, Beshore related how his farm had completed a 7-year/DER-approved contract for farm application of sewage sludge. This practice has practically eliminated the need for purchased fertilizers. Although permitting is an involved process, Beshore said he

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Franklin County Holstein Association directors are, from the left front, Alan Meyers, Robert Mong, Paul Cashell, and Roy Cordell. In the back row standing, from the left are Dale Rice, Richard Crider, Marcus Martin, Rodney Hawbaker, Jaye Young, Kevin Horst, James Burdette, and Robert Eckstine.

Franklin Holstein Elects Directors

CHAMBERSBURG (Franklin Co.) — The Franklin County Holstein Association recently named its directors and reorganized, according to a news release.

Of the officers, Robert Mong, of Waynesboro, was elected president, Paul Cashell, Chambersburg, vice president, and Roy Cordell, of Chambersburg, secretary/treasurer. Alan Meyers, of Greencastle, was elected state director.

Other directors include Dale

Rice, of Chambersburg, Richard Crider, Chambersburg, Marcus Martin, of Mercersburg, Rodney Hawbaker, of St. Thomas, Jaye Young, of Greencastle, Kevin Horst, Chambersburg, James Burdette, Mercersburg, and Robert Eckstine, also of Mercersburg.

For more information about the Holstein Association, contact any of the directors, the county extension office, or the state association at (814) 234-0364.

Guernsey Breeders To Meet

ENON VALLEY (Lawrence Co.) — The Pennsylvania Guernsey Breeders' Association is set to hold its 64th annual meeting April 21-22, at the Arena in Bedford.

Meal reservations are required and need to be made by April 17. Call James Trotter at (412) 667-0834.

For hotel reservations, the deadline is April 19, and can be made by calling the Quality Inn, Bedford, at (814) 623-5188. Room rates are \$45.90 without tax for a single; \$51.30 for a double. Children under 16 stay free.

Meal tickets are necessary is

desiring to attend the adult banquet (\$12.50 each per adult; \$6.50 per children under 11); and for the youth awards breakfast (\$6.50 each) unless a member of the Pa. Junior Guernsey Breeders Association.

Convention activities start at 12:30 p.m., April 21, and the two-day event includes a business meeting, MAGS meeting, hospitality hour, an awards banquet, queen contest, All-Pennsylvania awards presentations; juniors breakfast, a craft auction, and the Blue Halter Calf (plus added consignments) Sale.

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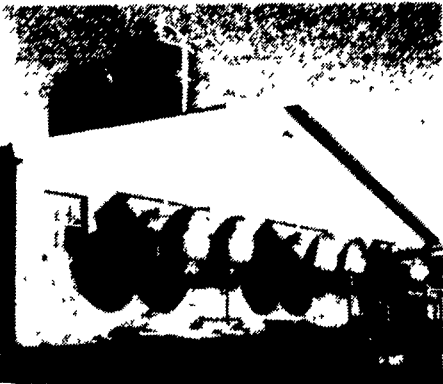
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