

# Sen. Jubelirer Appoints Altoona Man To Farmland Board

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Ray Diebold, an Altoona dairy farmer, was appointed last week to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Land Preservation Board by Sen. Robert Jubelirer, who is also Senate president pro tempore.

The 17-member board has oversight of the state Farmland Protection Program, which allows the state and counties to purchase development rights — referred to as easements — to guarantee that certain farms remain as agricultural land.

The board is constructed so that

the secretary of the Agriculture Department is chairman.

Other members include the secretaries of the departments of Community Affairs and Environmental Resources; the minority and majority leaders of the House and Senate Agricultural and Rural Affairs committees; the dean of The Pennsylvania State University College of Agricultural Sciences; five members appointed by the governor; and four members appointed, one each by the speaker of the House, the House minority leader, the Senate president pro

tempore, and the Senate minority leader.

Diebold was appointed by Jubelirer to fill an unexpired term on the board. Normally, members serve for four years. Diebold's board term is to end in April 1997.

The appointment is one of several leadership positions that Diebold currently holds. He is a member of Sen. Jubelirer's agricultural advisory group, the Penn State Agricultural Advisory Council, and the Pennsylvania Council of Agricultural Organizations.

Also, last year, Diebold was reappointed to serve as a member of the Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program Board of Directors.

Diebold operates a 90-cow dairy farm in Tyrone Township, with his wife Judy and son Kevin. He and Judy also have a son Ken, and daughter Karen.

As a member of the Farmland Protection Program Board of Directors, Diebold is to review

requests to approve programs and purchases of building easements on farmland.

Under the program, individual landowners who have first enrolled their acres within an approved Agricultural Security Area can then apply to a county preservation board to sell the development rights to the farmland.

County boards (there are 37 currently in the state) can request state

funding to help pay for the easements, or purchase the easements entirely.

State Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brosius praised the selection.

"Mr. Diebold has operated a dairy farm in Blair County and has been a leader in agricultural issues for many years," Brosius said. "We will value his input as a board member."

## Fungicides Released To Fight Late Blight

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)—Agriculture Secretary Charles C. Brosius announced that two fungicides are now available for commercial growers to control late blight in potatoes.

Acrobat MZ and Curzate M-8 were unavailable for use on potatoes until Brosius formally requested that they be exempted from federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations this growing season.

"We're pleased that the EPA has approved our request to use these fungicides on late blight," Brosius said. "It's another tool for farmers as they combat this disease."

Acrobat MZ is manufactured by E.I. du Pont de Nemours, and Curzate M-8 is manufactured by the American Cyanamid Company. Both fungicides will be available from commercial suppliers until October 1, when the exemption expires.

Brosius requested the exemptions due to an emergency condition resulting from the introduction of a new strain of late blight fungus (*Phytophthora infestans*). There was over \$4 million in damage to Pennsylvania potato crops due to late blight dur-

ing 1994.

Plants affected by late blight have brownish to purplish-black spots appearing on leaves or stems of plants. The disease can occur at any time during the growing season when humid, rainy conditions occur.

In addition to requesting exemption for the two fungicides, the Agriculture Department increased its monitoring activity to alert growers to the presence of late blight and blight conditions.

Growers may contact an integrated pest management hotline for information on the occurrence and management of late blight. The telephone number is (800) 736-6476 (800-PENN-IPM).

The department's Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory is also assisting in the late blight management effort by testing samples using a new technique that provides faster determination of late blight fungus to aid growers in fighting the disease.

For more information on the control of late blight, growers may contact their professional associations, county extensions agents, or the Agriculture Department's Plant Industry Labs at (717) 787-5609.

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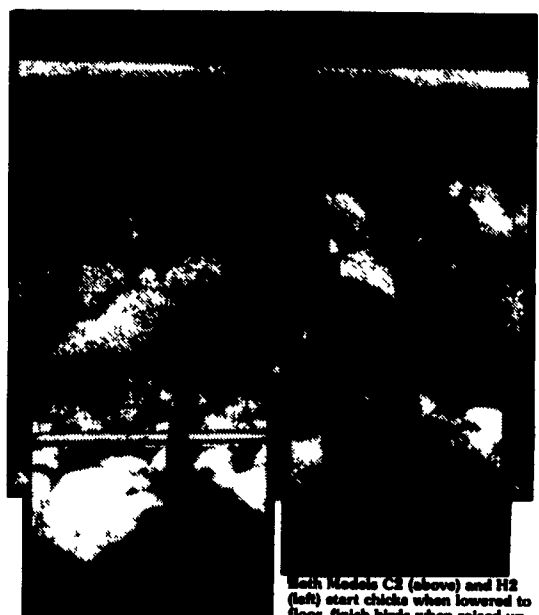
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