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Busy Week For Pennsylvania Agriculture Department

VERNON ACHENBACH, JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — It was a busy week for agriculture in Pennsylvania.

On Tuesday, the state broke ground for the long-awaited new state laboratory which is to be the one of the biggest parts in creating a fully accredited tripartite animal disease diagnostic and health system. It is to put the state into the national lead for such needed services.

Later in the day, state Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brosius was officially sworn into office, with one of the largest turnouts ever to such an agricultural function.

Also this week, Gov. Tom

**Office Closed
July 4**

To celebrate the nation's birthday, Lancaster Farming's offices will be closed on Tuesday, July 4. Our offices will reopen on Wednesday, July 5. Have a great day!

Ridge, who attended the swearing-in ceremony making it his second visit to the agriculture building this year, signed into law HB 1400 which creates the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR).

During a Wednesday ceremony, Gov. Ridge signed the law with Secretary Brosius and DER Sec-

retary James Seif present.

Under the new law, DER's name is changed to the Department of Environmental Protection, while the state parks, forests and other natural resources are to fall under the purview of the newly created, cabinet level DCNR.

(According to the Governor's Press Office, an nominee to head

the DCNR is expected to be named within the next several weeks.)

The law also gives additional roles to the PDA, which now is to implement the Seasonal Farm Labor Act.

Further, the law altered slightly the State Conservation Commission. Not only is it to have an independent executive secretary

selected by the commission, but the PDA is to target staff to support the commission when it enforces the Nutrient Management Act with regards to production agriculture, and the DEP is to have staff to support the SCC when it enforces violations of the Clean Streams Act.

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Youth Learn By Leading At Cooperatives Institute

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
SHIPPENSBURG (Cumberland Co.) — For participants early this week at the annual state cooperatives Summer Youth Institute, involvement meant everything.

It meant a chance to attend the National Institute of Cooperative Education (NICE) Conference in Minneapolis, Minn. at the end of this month. It meant a chance to serve as a scholar at upcoming state conferences. It could provide the cornerstone for a management career.

Youth from around the state were honored for their leadership and understanding of how cooperatives work at the annual Pennsylvania Council of Coopera-

tives (PCC)- and Penn State-sponsored Summer Institute at Shippensburg University.

Robin Davies, daughter of Phil and Paulette Davies, Tunkhannock, and Michael Clark, son of Gary and Delores Clark, Loysville, were presented with the Jay Irwin Leadership Award at the awards ceremony on Wednesday afternoon.

Robin, 17, a senior at Tunkhannock Area High School, has served on the scholar committee at the institute for two years.

Robin said she learned how to meet and interact with fellow participants at the institute. Her leadership responsibilities included reporting to the federal board each night and speaking in the general

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Robin Davies, daughter of Phil and Paulette Davies, Tunkhannock, right, and Michael Clark, son of Gary and Delores Clark, Loysville, left, were presented with the Jay Irwin Leadership Award at the awards ceremony on Wednesday afternoon. In center is Irwin.

National Holstein Convention: \$72,000 Sale Top, Cope Is President

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

PITTSBURGH — For the sixth time in the 110-year history of the National Holstein Association, the annual convention was held in Pen-

sylvania. All previous conventions (1919, 1926, 1929, 1955, and 1976) were held in Philadelphia. But this week the rejuvenated western Pennsylvania steel city put out the red carpet for the 1,500

Holstein breeders who came to be part of the festivities and association business.

During the election of officers Wednesday, Pennsylvania's John Cope, Grantham, was elected pres-

ident of the 45,407-member (including junior members) Holstein Association USA. Cope succeeded John Selz, Humbird, Wisconsin, who was not eligible for reelection. Richard Keene from

New York was elected vice president.

The new directors that were elected are Henry Benecke, New York; Ray Bennett, Georgia, and Jim Spreng, Ohio. Keith Stump, Wisconsin, was reelected.

The 1995 Distinguished Young Breeders award was given to Steve and Chrissy Woods, Littlestown. This couple became owner-operators of Penn Gate Farm in 1986. Since that time they have received 48 All-Pennsylvania awards and an All-American nomination. They were premier breeder at the Eastern National twice and premier exhibitor once. Their 73-cow herd includes 20 EX and 32 VG cows and the herd average is 22,000 pounds of milk.

The award is given to young dairy farmers between the ages of 21 and 40 who show "success with registered Holsteins" and have a plan with well-thought-out goals.

The Robert Rumler Scholarship was given to Alfred Person, Burlington, Vermont. Person is a 1972 graduate of Ohio State and operated a New York dairy farm in Clymer, New York, before pursuing a Master's Degree in Extension Education at the University of Vermont.

In the dairy bowl contest, both Pennsylvania teams came into the finals Wednesday morning undefeated. And the junior team from Pennsylvania remained undefeated, outscoring Wisconsin's junior team to become the national

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Friends of Singbrook Aero M Molly-ET gather in the National Holstein Convention sale ring right after the beautiful two year-old sold to Larry Mohnfeld, Pleasant Plain,

Ohio, for \$72,000. Consigned by Singing Brook Farm, Imler, this first cow in the ring to open the sale was one of 15 head that sold for \$20,000 or more.