

# Busy Week For Pennsylvania Agriculture Department

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## Groundbreaking

During the groundbreaking event for the new diagnostic laboratory, Brosius shared the stage with Secretary of the Department of General Services Gary Crowell, and Maria Keating Titleman, the governor's deputy chief of staff for government affairs and cabinet liaison.

Crowell talked about how this project was significant because of the cooperation within government, the agricultural industry and the private sector to move Pennsylvania forward.

Titleman, who represented Gov. Ridge for the ceremony, talked about the importance of the project not just to the animal agriculture industry, but to all Pennsylvanians. She also cited a fact that 70 percent of the \$3.6 billion state agriculture industry business comes from animal agriculture.

Speaking last, Brosius reiterated Titleman's observation of the economic importance of the animal agriculture to the state and to all of its residents.

"It becomes obvious what an

integral part this new laboratory will play in maintaining the integrity of the health of the animal population in the Commonwealth."

He explained that the new \$6.7 million lab, expected to be completed next summer, has "primary responsibility for the regulatory testing of the Department (PDA), and is the primary site for import-export testing — an increasingly important component for Pennsylvania's animal industry."

When the state's Summerdale Laboratory, built in the 1920s, lost its accreditation, other, out-of-state facilities had to be used for necessary health certification tests, sending money out of this state's economic system.

Further, the animal agriculture industry has changed in all aspects since the 1920s and the threat of spread of disease between animals and between animals and people has been greatly increased.

"With the very dense populations of animals (in close proximity to large populations of people) in Pennsylvania, the threat of disease is real and ever present.



From the left, District Justice Thomas Martin Jr. administers the oath of office to state Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brosius who holds his left hand, unseen, on his mother's 75-year-old bible. In the background, looking on is Sen. Earl Baker.

"We have had some tragic experiences with diseases, and the ability of this lab to respond in a timely way to assist the producers in the state is essential."

In recognizing those who helped bring about new laboratory, Brosius said, "It needs to be made perfectly clear that I am here reaping the benefit of the very hard work of a lot of dedicated people."

He recognized the facilities designer, the members of the the state's Animal Health Commission, and the cooperating university laboratories with whom PDA has the tripartite Animal Health and Diagnostic System.

Specifically, Brosius mentioned Animal Health and Diagnostic System partners, Dr. Alan Kelly, dean of veterinary medicine at the University of Pennsylvania New Bolton Center, and Dr. Channa Reddy, acting head of the Veterinary Science Department of the Penn State University College of Agricultural Sciences.

Brosius also made a special point of recognizing former Sec-

retary of Agriculture Boyd Wolff — "... under whose leadership the project was conceived and developed."

He also recognized Robert Bitenbender, secretary of the budget, "... without whose support and approval this project could not have become reality."

A drawing of the proposed laboratory building was displayed during the event, but details, such as the specific types of services, number of square feet, number of people employed, etc., were not made available by presstime.

## Swearing In

The administration of the oath of office to Secretary Brosius was even more well attended.

The lobby of the agriculture building was packed with people — senators, lobbyists, representatives and leaders of the state's agricultural organizations, friends, family, department staff, camera crews, photographers, journalists — all crowded around a platform where Gov. Ridge and

Secretary Brosius sat with Sen. Earl Baker, chairman of the Senate Labor and Industry Committee, who presided over the ceremony, Rep. Joseph Pitts, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, and District Justice Thomas Martin Jr., who administered the oath.

Not only did Martin and Gov. Tom Ridge go to Dickenson Law School together, but Brosius was Martin's 4-H advisor when Martin was growing up on his family farm, the fourth oldest family farm in the state.

Also on stage was Brosius's mother Dorothy and his wife Jane. Nearby were his sisters Peggy and Elinor, one of his sons, Harold, a grandson Kyle, a daughter-in-law and two granddaughters.

Brosius took the oath of office by swearing on his mother's 75-year-old bible.

At least a couple hundred people couldn't fit inside the lobby, but were pressed up close to the lobby's large glass windows, and almost completely occupied the

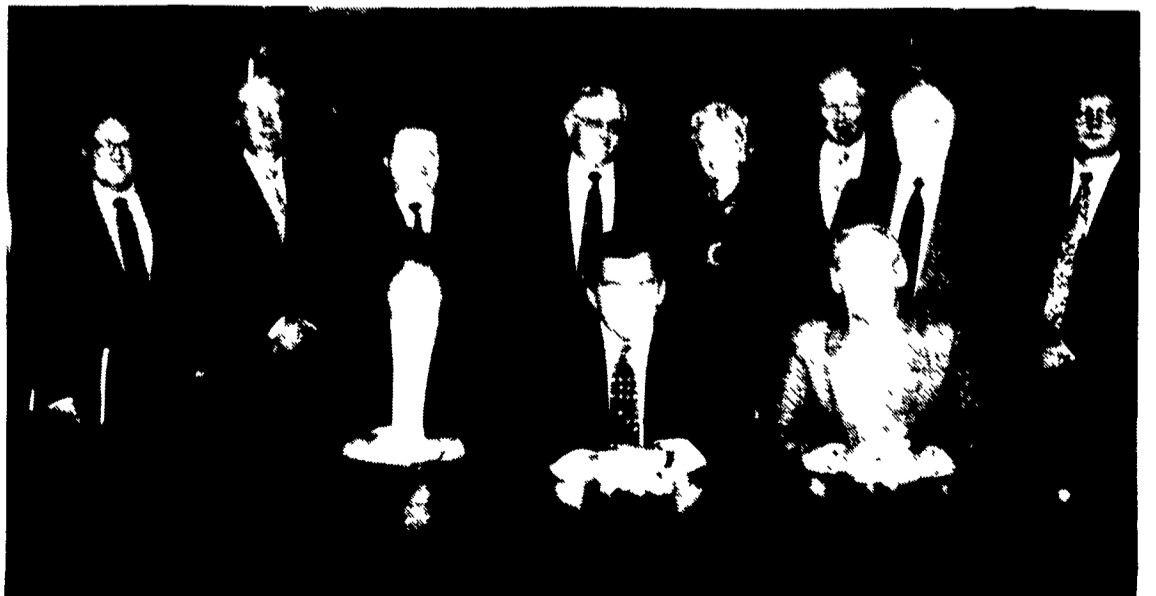
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Gov. Tom Ridge talks to Dorothy Brosius, mother of the Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brosius, while the secretary's wife Jane looks on.



From the left, Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brosius, Maria Keating Titleman, deputy chief of staff for government affairs and cabinet liaison, and Secretary of the Department of General Services Gary Crowell symbolically break ground for the construction of a \$6.7 million diagnostic laboratory adjacent to the state agriculture building. The lab is actually to be located on the north end of the building, not on the south side.



Sitting at a table after signing into law an act which splits and renames the Department of Environmental Resources, from the left, Brenda Shambaugh, lobbyist for the Pennsylvania State Grange, Gov. Tom Ridge, and Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brosius. Shambaugh actually shouldn't be sitting there. The seat should be occupied by DER Secretary James Self, who is standing at the left.