

Gov. Ridge Announces New Export Emphasis

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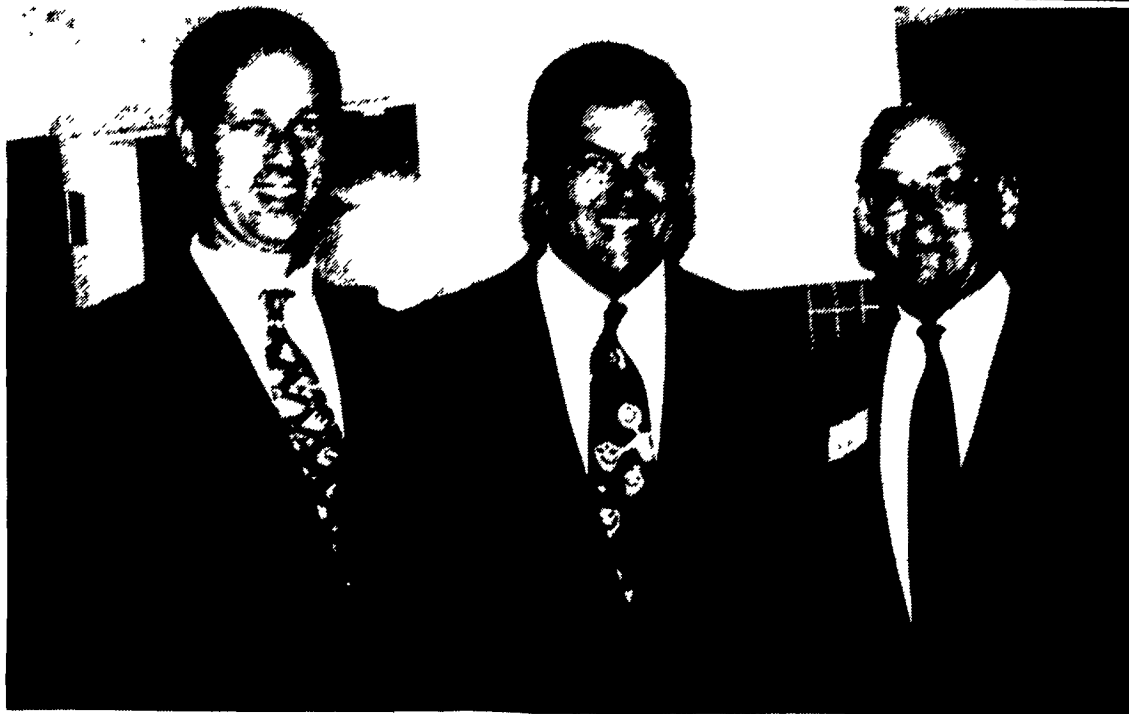
culture and the value added process of agribusiness successful?" Ridge asked.

In his introduction of Gov. Ridge, State Ag Secretary Charles Brosius likened the government to a business and called it Pennsylvania's Citizens Service Company. "We (in government) have no reason to exist except to provide for citizen services, for them collectively what they cannot do for themselves individually," Brosius said. "PDA touches the lives of every person in the state. Three-fourth of the PDA employees have some responsibility for regulation. But we do it in a 'farmer friendly' way. Excessive regulation is another form of taxation because the cost of compliance bleeds profits away from your business. The task of our department is to edu-

cate, support, and raise the farm income of the 51,000 farms in Pennsylvania. This in turn will improve the economy of the rural community."

Because of the location and the governor's visit, the meeting expanded into a state-wide forum with questions from the floor related to education, reassessment, exports, and farmland preservation.

Chris Herr, deputy secretary, was the meeting manager and is a regular member of the forum. Others on the program included Walt Peechatka, deputy secretary; Russell Redding, deputy secretary; LeRoy Corbin, acting director of food safety; and Ana Maria DiStefano, director of market development. Mike Brubaker, chair, opened the meeting.



At the Ag Issues Forum, from left, Mike Brubaker, forum chair Gov. Tom Ridge; and Charles Brosius, state ag secretary.



Lori Stump, at Pennsylvania DHIA, shows the new FOSS 4,000 MUN milk testing equipment that will go on line October 1 to give members the most up-to-date tool for nutrition and reproduction management their herds.

Pennsylvania DHIA Brings New

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protein, and SCC. Several large herds are already waiting to begin the test and only the first 1000 herds will be accepted into this program.

Another supporting factor in the program is that the cheese yield in milk increases if the cow is properly fed. Thus herds on the MUN test provide a win/win situation. The farmer pays for only the feed the cow needs and the manufacturer gets a product with increased cheese yields.

The FOSS 4000 milk testing machine to do the MUN testing along with the regular tests of butterfat, protein, and SCC has already been installed. Slusser says the Pennsylvania DHIA program will provide an efficient method for dairy farmers to monitor their herds and take advantage of this new management tool.

After Oct. 1, members can begin testing for MUN by informing their technicians that they want tested. No additional samples need to be taken. Members will receive individual cow results on their DHIA monthly report plus a MUN herd summary report. The MUN report will give information by days in milk, by group, and by lactation number.

"The new milk analysis technology to measure the urea content of milk opens up an exciting opportunity to improve the management of dairy cattle rations and improve the profitability in milk production," Slusser said. "In addition, the best possible milk protein concentrations of cheese yields for dairy product manufacturing is maintained. This provides a definite benefit to both the farmer and the cheese manufacturer."

Lancaster Chamber Sponsors Apple Festival Next Saturday

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — When people think of farming in Lancaster County, they envision pastures full of cows, acres upon acres of corn and hay, and passing a horse and buggy on the way home from church.

Did you know there are farms in Lancaster growing peaches, pears, cherries, plums, nectarines, and delicious apples?

Orchards are an integral part of one of the largest, most stable industries in Lancaster County — agriculture.

The Lancaster Chamber of Commerce and Industry — in cooperation with Cherry Hill Orchards and the Pennsylvania Apple Marketing Board — will be coordinating an Apple Festival on Saturday, Sept. 23 at Cherry Hill Orchards located south of Lancaster. There will be activities for the whole family, where you can:

- See children's entertainer Steven Courtney put a smile on kids faces.

- A petting zoo where you can have your picture taken with local farm animals.

- Meet folklore legend Johnny Appleseed and hear his adventures from the West.

- Taste test the many varieties of apples available.

- Take a hayride across 50 acres of prime Lancaster orchards.

- Laugh with musician/comedian Ken Hussar.

- Pick your own apples from one of Lancaster's premier orchards.

- Visit a display tent of local agricultural business.

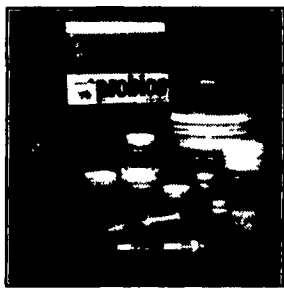
- Door prizes, free giveaways, and much more.

Cherry Hill Orchards is located at the intersection of Long Lane Road (Route 741) and Marticville Road (Route 324) just south of the city of Lancaster.

For more information, contact Jim Shirk, agriculture services manager for the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce and Industry, at (717) 397-3531.

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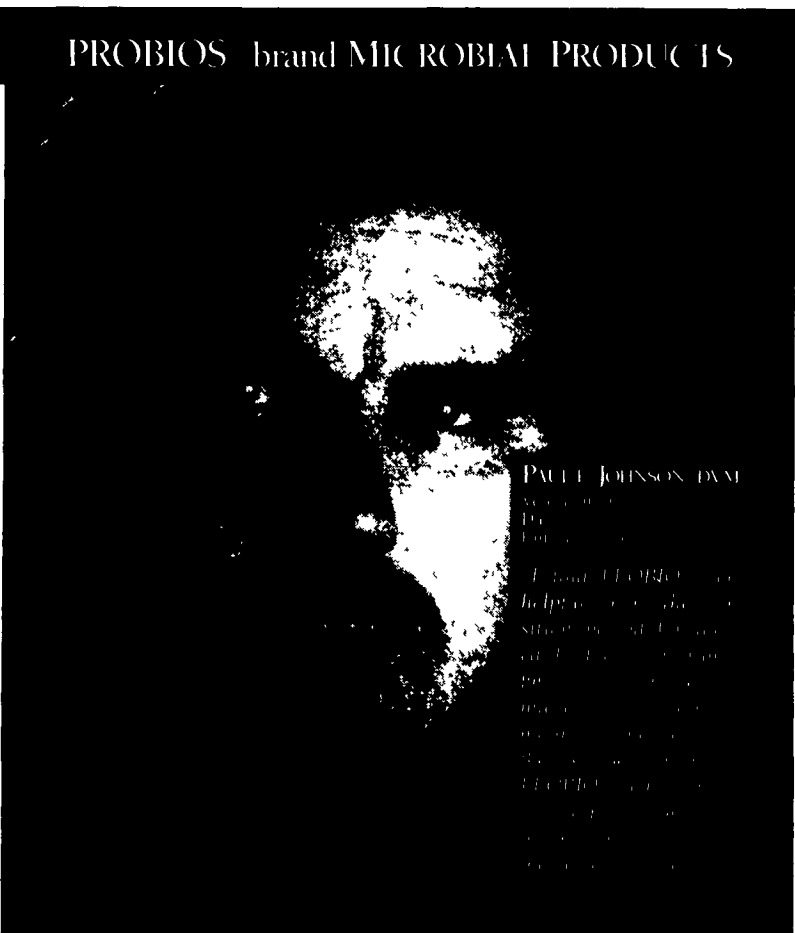


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PAUL JOHNSON, DVM

Paul Johnson, DVM, is a veterinarian with a focus on dairy cattle health and nutrition.

He has been instrumental in helping many dairy farmers improve their herd health and productivity.

Dr. Johnson is a strong proponent of using ProbiOS brand Microbial Products to maintain and improve the health of their dairy herds.

He believes that these products are essential for ensuring that dairy cattle are healthy and productive throughout their lives.

Dr. Johnson's expertise and dedication to his profession have earned him a reputation as one of the leading dairy veterinarians in the region.

He is currently a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Pennsylvania Veterinary Association.

Dr. Johnson's contact information is as follows: [Address and phone number]

For more information on ProbiOS products, please contact Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.