

State Conservation Commission Selects Executive Secretary

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The State Conservation Commission has selected Karl Brown, New Cumberland, to serve as its first independent executive secretary, a position that carries major responsibility for day-to-day administration of the regulations implementing the state Nutrient Management Act.

Brown has served with the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau in the past, as a director of local government affairs.

He is currently director for the Farm Bureau's national legislative programs and its agricultural employers programs.

Brown has a bachelor's degree in environmental resource management from Penn State University, and served as a resource conservationist with the Lebanon County Conservation District.

Brown's selection was announced this week by state Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brosius in a news release.

According to the release, Bro-

sus said, "Karl comes to the position with a wide range of experience in conservation and in agriculture. We look forward to the leadership he will provide to this crucial program."

The State Conservation Commission was created to oversee the administration of the state's conservation districts — with funding coming through federal, state and county government.

With the Nutrient Management Act, the SCC was given authority to carry out the program, a measure that was agreed to by environmentalists and agriculturalists as a way to ensure non-preferential treatment or interpretation of the intent of the rules for administration of the program.

However, in the past SCC was staffed by state Department of Environmental Resources personnel, and the commission was only chaired by the secretary of DER.

In June, with the signing of the Conservation and Natural Resour-

ces Act — the act that split DER up into the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Conservation of Natural Resources (DCNR) — the position of the executive director of the commis-

sion was specified to be a person not in the employ of either the PDA or the DEP.

The act also provided that the secretary of agriculture take the first watch as chairman of the revised SCC, with the chairman-

ship to alternate every year between the two secretaries.

Also, each state department is to maintain staff to work with Brown and the SCC in the enforcement of the Nutrient Management Act regulations.

Lancaster 4-H Livestock Team National Sheep Judging Champs

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The Lancaster County 4-H Livestock Judging Team this week captured a first place nationally in team sheep judging competitions at the North American Livestock Exposition (NAILE).

According to team coach and county extension livestock agent Chester Hughes, who returned from Louisville early Thursday morning, the four-member Lancaster County team represented Pennsylvania at the national contest and "shined" in the sheep judging competition.

The NAILE competitions are the last level of competition for the team comprised of members Lisa

Reiff, Dale Livengood, Gerald Boyd, and Regina Landis. The qualified for the national contest by winning the state competition earlier in the year.

The NAILE competitions requires the judging of 10 classes of livestock — beef, sheep and swine — and includes tests on performance data, oral reason and questions.

The Lancaster team was the top nationally in sheep, but also placed well overall.

Out of the 35 teams in competition, the Lancaster County team ranked sixth. In order, the top five higher ranked teams overall were Illinois, Indiana, Colorado, Kentucky, and Maryland. Two points


separated Maryland and Pennsylvania.

In individual ratings, Gerald Boyd earned a fifth place for sheep judging, while ranking 15th overall. Lisa Reiff was ninth individual in sheep judging and 31st overall. Landis took a 41st place overall, out of the 140 contestants.

Hughes said he thought it was probably the first time the team has won a species division nationally.

Hughes said that industry sponsorship of the program was strong with \$21,000 contributed toward awards and banquets.

Further, the top 10 individuals received limited edition porcelain horses.



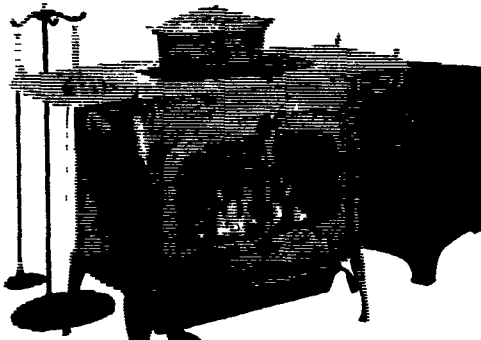
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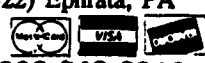
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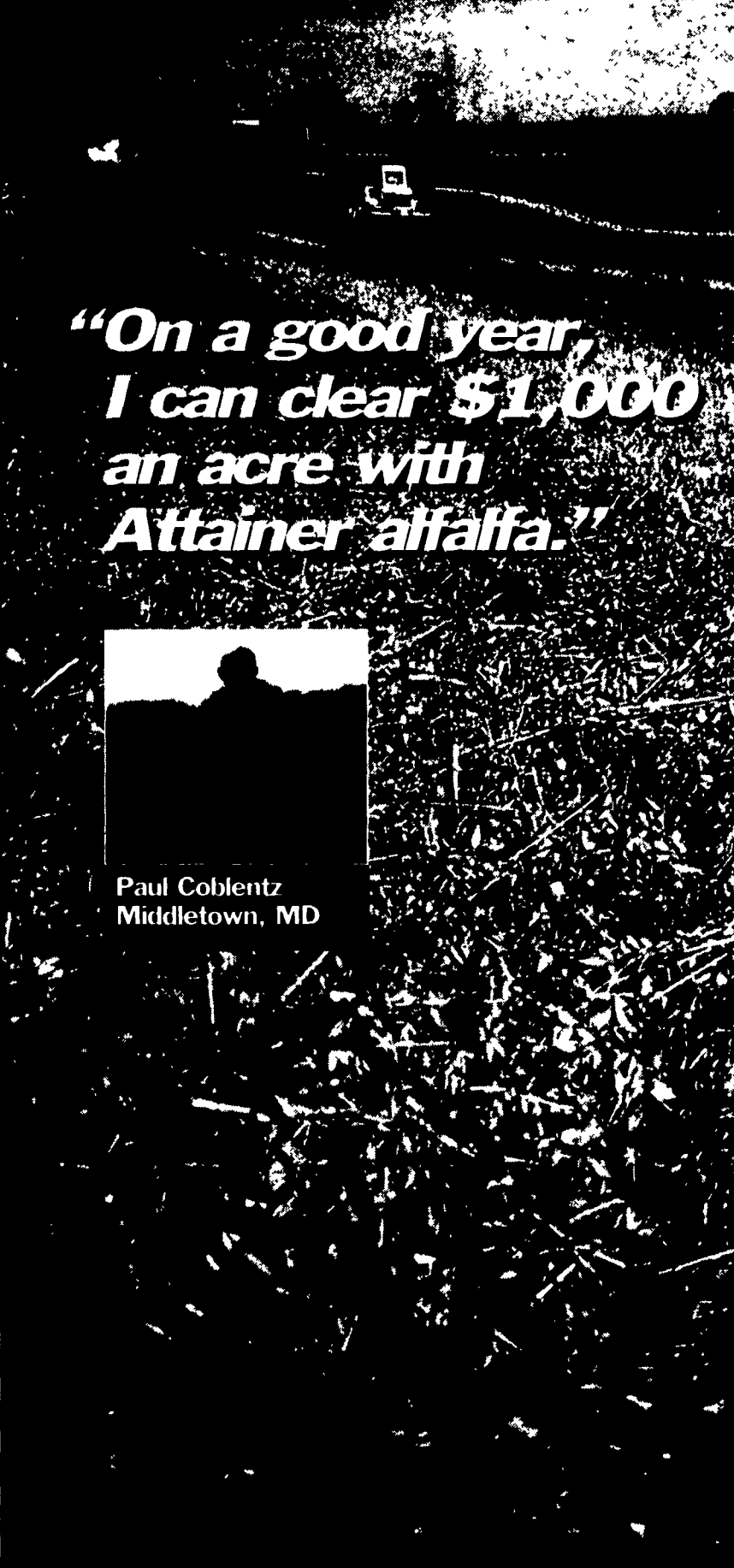
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