

Farmers Hold Pitts Rally

CHRISTIANA (Lancaster Co.) — About 50 leaders in the agricultural community announced today that they are supporting Joe Pitts in his candidacy for US Congress. The supporters announced their formation of the "Farmers for Joe Pitts" coalition at a rally held at the Ed and Arlene Harnish Farm, Georgetown Road, Christiana. They will be advising Pitts on agricultural policy. State Representative Art Hershey (R-13) of Lancaster and Chester counties was named Chairman of the organization.

Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brosius, a resident of the 16th District and a farmer, was also on hand to support Pitts. "Joe has always been a strong advocate for farmers and agriculture," Brosius said. "He has held a substantial level of responsibility in Harrisburg, and used it wisely. He will be an even stronger voice for agriculture in Washington."

"Joe Pitts is a great friend to farmers," said Hershey. "Encroaching development and skyrocketing real estate taxes are threatening

the family farm. A changed tax structure and a roll-back of over-reaching government regulations are both needed, and Joe Pitts is the man to get the job done."

"The tax burden is a tremendous problem," said Pitts. "We need to eliminate the inheritance tax on the family farm and drastically reduce the capital gains tax as well. Real estate tax reform is equally important on the state level. We should consider a shift to an income tax."

"The regulatory situation is also a major problem," Pitts continued. "We should require a cost-benefit analysis on all current and proposed agricultural regulations. Some regulations are needed, but common sense needs to be employed before we tell farmers what they can and can't do."

Before we tell a farmer that he can't use part of his land because it's a 'wetland,' we should have to demonstrate actual environmental impact," he said. "This land belongs to the farmer, not Uncle Sam, and the government shouldn't be telling him how to use it."



Fire Company Farm Rescue Seminar Held

A volunteer fire company safety and rescue seminar was held last week at Enfield Equipment, Oxford. In many farm accidents, rescue workers do not know about how farm machinery works. So the volunteers are hampered in their efforts to free a farmer's hand or leg.

Working with Enfield Equipment, forty-five members from five fire companies learned about on/off controls, fuel systems, and hydraulics. Simulated accidents were posed with a dummy, and the participants had to rescue the dummy from under a combine head by jacking up the whole machine; remove a hand from the bale knoter, and dismantle the corn head to free a simulated trapped farmer's leg. The fire companies that participated were: West Grove, Oxford, Cochranville, Unionville, and Wakefield.

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At farmers rally are from left, Joe Pitts, candidate, U.S. Congress; Art Hershey, (R-13), representative, Lancaster, Chester Counties; Arlene and Ed Harnish, farmers who hosted the meeting; and Charles Brosius, State Ag secretary.



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