

Pa. Grange Legislative Day

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, April 27, 1986-A25

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The Pennsylvania State Grange is celebrating the end of state and national Grange Week with its annual meeting and legislative banquet Monday, April 29 at the Sheraton Inn-East, in Harrisburg.

Grangers and non-Grange members were invited to register for the afternoon workshops and banquet. The event is held to educate Grange members and legislators about Grange policy.

Grange policy is developed by the members first and then further refined according to agreement, logic and popularity. About 400 Grange members are expected to attend and discuss issue of importance with state legislators.

"The legislative reception and banquet is grassroots at work as our members meet with their legislators to affirm Grange policy and express their concerns about agricultural and rural issues," said Brenda Shambaugh, Grange legislative director. "It also gives our members an opportunity to discuss one-on-one the problems facing them."

Some of the issue of concern include local tax reform. The State Grange policy endorses legislation that requires less reliance on property taxes and more emphasis on equal taxes. The Grange also support more local control on the tax formula because one tax base is different than another, across the state.

The Grange has also been a leader in fighting attempts by Bell Atlantic to have its rates "rebalanced," which means they are seeking to increase rural rates while lowering city and urban rates because of competition in high density areas. Bell doesn't have competition in rural areas.

The Grange wants the governor and legislators to remember that state policy calls for consumers and oil franchises to split the difference in gas taxes proposed to

raise funds to repair roads damaged by this past winter's severe storms.

The Grange also endorses changes and reforms in state educational policy, such as proposed sabbatical reform, which passed the House and was in the Senate Education Committee. That reform would prohibit teachers from using sabbaticals for travel, early retirement, or as severance pay, but could be utilized for educational or health reasons. Shambaugh said the Grange is pleased with the legislative proposal, and seeks to have the law restructured to include only sabbatical leaves for study, or for restoration of health without pay.

The Grange position on the state budget is that it wants funding for the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine restored, and it wants the incentive program restored for rural teachers and agricultural students who

return to work in rural areas. Pennsylvania State Grange, call For more information on the (800) 552-3865.

Schuylkill County Drought Disaster Assistance

POTTSVILLE (Schuylkill Co.) — Effective March 11, Schuylkill County has been declared a natural disaster area due to the drought which occurred from April 1, 1995 and continued through the summer of 1995.

This declaration covers both physical and production losses which occurred during this disaster period.

Eligible family size farmers may qualify for Emergency Loan Assistance for physical and production losses. Eligibility criteria is as follows:

-Applicants must be in compliance with the Highly Erodable

Soil Conservation requirements.

-Applicants must have purchased Multi-peril Crop Insurance during the disaster period.

-Applicants must not be able to obtain credit from commercial sources.

-Applicants must have operated the farm during the disaster year and intend to continue farming after the disaster year.

Interested producers who want more details or wish to receive an application should contact the FSA/Credit Division at PO Box 806, Bloomsburg, PA 17815, or call (717) 784-9033, or call the Schuylkill County FSA at (717) 622-1555.

Haenlein

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mal Science, teaching both semesters.

Still the state dairy specialist, he is a member of Dairy Herd Improvement Association (DHIA), corresponds with hundreds of people around the United States and world, and is a guest speaker at international conferences.

A world-recognized dairy expert, Haenlein's USDA text, Extension Goat Handbook, has become the bible worldwide for the dairy goat industry. And his Nutrient Requirements for Goats, which was commissioned by the National Research Council and was the first publication of its kind, is still considered the best source on the subject.

A champion of alternative dairy farming, he is recognized internationally for his research with dairy goats.

In 1988, he founded Small Ruminant Research, a monthly international journal for which he serves as editor-in-chief. In addition, the U.S. Agency for International Development has asked him to assist in dairy development programs in Third World countries.

At 68, Haenlein is not considering retirement. "What would I do with myself? As long as I am healthy and can still make a contribution, I'll keep at it."



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