

# Holstein Annual Meeting Salutes Nichol, Promotes Raney

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lection and assembly.

"In over 37 years, about \$35 million has been put back into the Pennsylvania economy through the sale of cattle," said Johnson.

During brief farewell comments to the business meeting assembly, retiring PHA executive director Nichol noted that he had worked with 18 different state Holstein presidents and had the opportunity to do many interesting things. He reminded members of what he sees as tremendous marketing opportunities for cattle opening up in countries that formerly relied on European suppliers, due to lingering concerns around the world over the disease BSE.

Nichol also noted that he hopes to remain active in the dairy industry and plans to write a book about his experiences with the registered Holstein business.

"I see an ever-changing dairy industry and a need to develop new programs as it downsizes," predicted Ken Raney in his interim executive director report. "We're asking for your input and your ideas."

He attributed the success of PHA to the commitment and enthusiasm of thousands of volunteers over the years and to the work of a dedicated staff that helped lead the state organization to national and international leadership.

Raney said he hopes to continue the PHA's involvement in both domestic and international sales of

cattle, noting a current sale selection and assembly of cattle for delivery to Saudi Arabia. The new executive director also shared his hopes of revitalizing the Spring Showcase and Eastern National sales, both offering opportunities for PHA members to merchandise from their breeding programs.

"By working together, our best opportunities lay ahead," Raney predicted.

Two members of the executive board were elected during meetings of two of PHA's six membership regions. Creedin Comman, Carlisle, was re-elected from the Southcentral region. Doug Seipt, Easton, was elected to represent the Southeast region, replacing retiring member Dean Hartman, Sinking Spring. Hartman also served as convention chair for the Reading annual meeting.

Resolutions supported at the annual meeting included one that reflected Pennsylvania Holstein members' dissatisfaction with current beef prices. That resolution called for a change in the beef checkoff program, in which no promotion funds would be deducted for any animal selling for less than \$100. That resolution is to be forwarded to the National Beef Board and, if rejected, a referendum on the national beef promotion checkoff program would be called for.

Other resolutions unanimously supported by the PHA assembly included farm vehicle exemptions for trailers and semi-trailers for



**Membership Solicitor Awards:** L-R, Jay Houser, Centre County; Rick Allen, Fayette County.

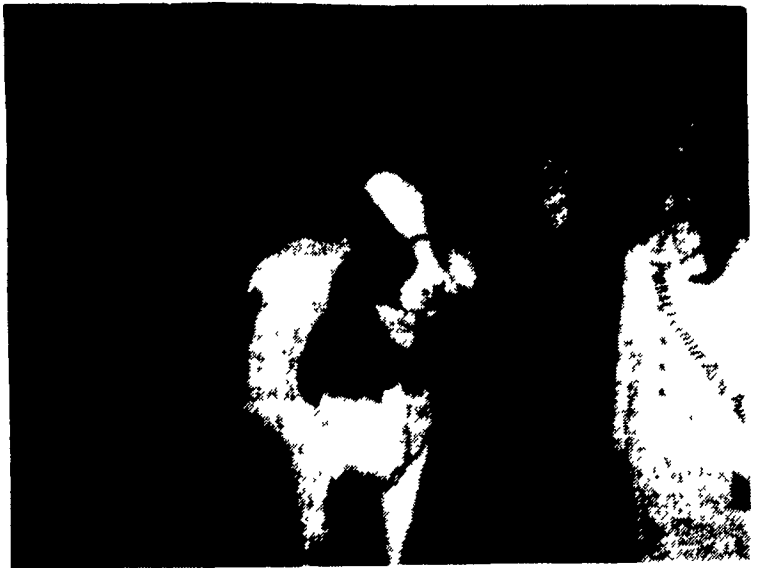
farm use, support for the Right to Farm Act, keeping food safety issues under the jurisdiction of the state Department of Agriculture, tax-valuing farm residence land the same as agriculture land when under Clean and Green jurisdiction, and the appointment of a committee to study ethics issues as related to the dairy cattle industry and reporting its findings back to the PHA board and membership.

PHA further supported a resolution to support Obie Snider, Imler, to be reappointed to the Penn State Board of Trustees.

## WINTER FORUM

In a departure from prior years, a state Winter Forum session was held during the Thursday afternoon session of the annual meeting. Winter Forums, conducted by representatives of national Holstein, have traditionally been held at several locations across the state. Their purpose is to inform and gather grassroots input from the membership and delegates to the national convention, on policy proposals being offered for consideration by the national organization at each annual meeting.

Leading the discussion at the Winter Forum were national president and Pennsylvanian John Cope, Grantham, Pennsylvania's national directors Ron Wood, Mansfield, and John Howard, Willow Street, and national Holstein



**PA Junior Holstein Calf Raffle Winner:** L-R, Robert & Doris Schaffer, Ellizabethville, PA. Ticket sold by Heidi Miller, Stephanie Anderson at the halter with State Dairy Princess Angela Werley.



**PA Holstein Past Presidents with Bill Nichol:** Kneeling, Samuel Minor, William Nichol and Obie Snider; Standing, William Conyngham, Laszlo Moses, Lewis Berkley, Wayne Harpster, John Cope, George Bridenbaugh, Elvin Hess, Jr., Jay Landis, Russell Jones and Donald Seipt.



**Hall of Fame Winner:** Seated, Jenny Lee Shue and Robert Gitt; Standing, Steve Wood, Chris Wood, Mike Gitt, Linda Gitt, Doug Gitt and Tina Gitt.

chief executive officer Steve Kerr.

Two key issues which generated lengthy debate were a proposal to raise registry fees and a proposal to make changes to an open hard-book of Holstein registry. The proposals will likely go to delegate debate and voting at the 1997 national convention.

In outlining the proposal for a registry fee increase, national president John Cope reviewed the Holstein Association's financial history of the past several years.

During the 1980s decade, Holstein operated profitably five of the 10 years. No year in the 1990s had National Holstein finances operated in the black, until 1996, when a robust last quarter pushed finances into slight profit margin for the fiscal year. While the Association is basically debt-free, the annual income is not covering the cost of operating the organization.

The registry fee increase proposal as presented would raise the

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**Club Membership Goal Awards:** L-R, Myron Bonzo, Beaver/Lawrence Counties; Paul Hartle, Activities Committee Chairman; Laszlo Moses, Mercer County.



**Progressive Breeder Registry Award Winners:** Front, Gerry Seipt, Jay Houser, Thomas Kelly and Ed Brake; Rear, Clarence Stauffer, Holstein Field Rep; Ken Umble, Donald Seipt, John Howard, Warren Sutton, Lewis Berkley and Thomas Dum, Holstein Field Rep.