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Secretary Brosius Resigns, State Ag Community Shocked

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Lancaster Farming Staff

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Gov. Tom Ridge this week requested and received the resignation of state Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brosius, according to a five-paragraph news release made Wednesday.

Secretary Brosius had no public comment on the action, and none would be forthcoming, according to his press secretary Sally Bair.

According to the governor's spokesman, Tim Reeves, Secretary Brosius is to serve until May 31 and is expected to continue to fulfill the commitments of his schedule until then, including leading a trade mission to Mexico in mid-May.

State legislators and agricultural lobbyists and state employees expressed shock upon learning of the resignation requested by Gov. Ridge, since all contacted were under the assumption that Secret-

ary Brosius was doing an excellent job in the position.

Several legislators said that of all of Gov. Ridge's political appointees, that the last one they would suspect of being considered for being asked to leave would have been Secretary Brosius.

Those who remember other resignations said that this one was such a shock because there were no warning signs or indications that anything was wrong — On March 24, Brosius had sent a progress report to legislators with a cover letter that expressed gratitude for the successes and hope for continuing support.

"The past two years have brought many successes to Pennsylvania's agricultural community. With the strong leadership of the Ridge Administration and support from the members of the General Assembly, we have made important strides in working together to keep our agriculture

industry strong and competitive," Brosius stated in the cover letter.

Legislators said they considered Brosius to be an excellent leader for the department, highly qualified and considered to have unquestioned integrity, principal

and ethics, in addition to serving personally as an example of successful agricultural entrepreneurship and personal growth.

They said he was one who already understood the issues well, could make suggestions and prom-

ote effective legislation and changes to benefit agriculture, and one who wasn't afraid to tackle even controversial problems, such as the state's Dog Law, which was recently recodified, updated, and

(Turn to Page A32)

State Legislators Say They Don't Understand

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
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HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Several state legislators familiar with agriculture and state Secretary Charles Brosius said they don't understand Gov. Tom Ridge's request for Brosius' resignation.

Brosius, of Chester County, was asked for and tendered his resignation this week, ending his term as head of the Pa. Department of Agriculture May 31.

State Rep. Arthur Hershey, Cochranville, had nominated Brosius to the position and said he was disappointed with the governor's decision.

"We were shocked," Hershey said. "Here is a man who has raised the visibility of the department considerably, working with the governor and Senate to get funding of New Bolton (University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary

Medicine) back up to being comfortable.

"Research at Penn State increased through his leadership. The (Penn State University Cooperative) Extension budget was increased a major percentage," Hershey said, adding the past administrations had allowed the extension service to atrophy.

"There have just been many, many plusses (with Charles Brosius as secretary)," he said.

Hershey noted that Brosius took over the management of the state's new diagnostic laboratory, giving credit to getting it started to former Ag Secretary Boyd Wolff, but taking it further to get it completed and staffed.

Brosius also successfully tackled nutrient management responsibilities, serving as chairman of the State Conservation Commission, tackling Dog Law,

(Turn to Page A26)

'Panorama' Of Music At Poultry's Big Fundraiser

ANDY ANDREWS

Lancaster Farming Staff
HERSHEY (Dauphin Co.) — They call her voice "triumphant," often "electrifying," many times "captivating," providing listeners a true "panorama" of music.

The words describe the music of Sandi Patty, who will entertain next Wednesday at the annual Pennsylvania Poultry Federation fundraising banquet.

Those same words can also

describe the night every year that is set aside to celebrate accomplishments of the industry and to share friendship and good times.

Next Wednesday evening, April 16, nearly 1,500 producers and agri-industry representatives will celebrate the accomplishments of the state's poultry industry at the Hershey Convention Center.

Sandi Patty brings to the stage a "remarkably flexible and far-

(Turn to Page A19)



Spring brings out the warm, fuzzy feelings in all true agriculturalists. Newborn lambs, toddlers, and the yellow glow of forsythia in full bloom bring hope for another good growing season and the future of generations to come. Maybe young life seems more sacred to those of us who have seen more than 60 springs come and go. But regardless of your age, it's hard not to enjoy the combination of subjects in this week's cover photo.

The toddlers are Christy (age 1) and Katie (age 5) Umberger, daughters of Don and Cindy Umberger, Palmyra, Lebanon County. The three-day-old quad lambs belong to a registered Dorset at Ovine Ally Farms, located north of Palmyra and owned by Ken and Ann Staver. The Stavers have been breeding Dorsets since 1951, and this is the first set of quads they have ever had. This mother ewe has been quite busy, too. This birth of four lambs follows her triplets that were born last September.

According to the latest statistical summary from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, there are 107,000 sheep and lambs on Pennsylvania farms. Commonwealth flocks include 92,000 breeding sheep and lambs and 15,000 market sheep and lambs. Five-hundred sixty-thousand pounds of wool was shorn from 81,000 sheep. The gross income from sheep production was \$5.2 million, and Pennsylvania ranked 17th in the United States for sheep and lamb inventory as of January 1, 1996. Photo by Everett Newswanger, managing editor.