

'Panorama' Of Music At Poultry's Big Fundraiser

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reaching vocal range that includes heart-stirring classics, lovable Disney melodies, nostalgic big band and Broadway numbers, and, of course, gospel and pop gospel music," according to promotional materials. She has earned five Grammy awards, 34 Dove awards, three platinum, and five gold albums.

According to William Trace, Federation chairman, "Sandi Patty's captivating voice and charming stage presence made her the immediate choice from a broad range of entertainment selections available. It promises to be a memorable evening."

According to John Hoffman, the Federation's executive director, as of Tuesday afternoon this week about 1,215 tickets had been sold to the single largest farm industry banquet. Last year about 1,500 people attended the banquet. Tickets, at \$150 each, are still available.

The fundraising banquet provides 58 percent of the entire Federation operating budget for the year. The remaining percentage is made up in membership dues and Farm Show Booth sales.

But this year was a banner year for the Federation's fundraising efforts. Farm Show profits were "the biggest they've ever been," said Hoffman. Sales from food at the Farm Show booth totalled \$70,000 with a net profit of \$30,000 — which makes for some good news in light of some troubling events early this year, regarding avian influenza (A.I.) and other worries.

The money raised at the banquet is used to fund the highly successful and nationally influential Pennsylvania Egg Quality Assurance Program (PEQAP). About 80 percent of the state's egg producers are enrolled in PEQAP, totalling 275 producers, according to Hoffman, which is becoming a national standard for egg quality assurance to egg consumers.

"The association is becoming more involved in actually promoting PEQAP," Hoffman said. "We have the program far enough along now to start promoting it."

The promotion will begin in the next several weeks with radio spots telling consumers to look for the PEQAP Quality Seal on cartons of eggs.

Producers pay a \$500 license fee to use the seal. The seal can be placed on egg cartons or cases. The radio program, with a matching grant of \$15,000 from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, costs a total of \$30,000. The radio ad will run the next 2-4 weeks on markets in the Philadelphia, Lancaster, Harrisburg, Reading, Allentown, York, and Wilkes-Barre/Scranton areas, according to Hoffman, totalling about 6.8 million listeners.

The funds are also used for operating expenses for the Poultry Health Committee, which provides information on poultry meat issues but also handles issues regarding eggs. Hoffman also noted the success of the insurance program offered by the Federation and the dissemination of news through the monthly newsletter, Poultry Post.

While some commodity groups spend a great deal of time on legislative promotional activities, the Federation is busy on both levels — not only with lobbying efforts but with actual quality assurance implementation and poultry health monitoring.

The Federation provides a number of other important benefits for members, including:

- Food safety. The Federation is the only state agricultural organization to employ a veterinarian full time to manage food safety programs for producers and processors.

- Poultry health leadership. The Poultry Health Committee continuously monitors flock health and avian influenza surveillance data to maintain effective control and eradication programs, including the use of the Federation indemnity fund.



Sandi Patty

• Nutrient management. The Federation constantly participated

in the development of nutrient management legislation and regulations to ensure effective but fair requirements for poultry and egg producers.

- Communication. The Federation keeps the industry informed through the Poultry Post newsletter. Also, the Federation sponsors the Northeast Poultry Show, held at the Lancaster Host Convention Center; the Poultry Progress Day, held at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center; and other meetings.

- Industry savings and protection. The worker's compensation program and medical insurance programs have saved the industry millions of dollars every year. Also, the Federation is involved in government relations, youth programs, turkey and broiler checkoff funds, scholarships, and other efforts.

The Federation operates two checkoff programs, for broilers

and turkeys. These volunteer programs fund industry research. The Federation also provides five \$1,000 scholarships to Penn State students.

By the way — Hoffman calls entertainer Sandi Patty's voice "so beautiful that you got to hear it to believe it."

The social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7 p.m. at the Hershey Convention Center along Rt. 322 in Hershey.

Tickets are \$150 each and may be ordered by writing or calling the Pa. Poultry Federation at 500 N. Progress Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17109, (717) 652-7530 or fax (717) 652-0230.

Farm Preservation Begins 7th Year

LAKEWOOD (Wayne Co.) — Thirteen farms, totaling 2,260 acres, are now under conservation easement in Wayne County.

This land can only be used for agricultural purposes, as development rights have been relinquished.

Applications for 1997 Conservation Easement purchase are available from the Penn State

extension office at the Wayne County Courthouse.

To be eligible, a farm must produce at least \$25,000 of agricultural income per year, have at least 50 percent of its soils in Class I, II, III, or IV, and 50 percent of its land in the production of grain, hay, or open pasture. The farm must also have a conservation plan in use.



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