

International Speakers Address Penn State's Rule Program

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Community leaders from across Pennsylvania learned about national and international aspects of leadership during the March Study Institute of the Pennsylvania Rural Leadership (RULE) Program, held in March at the Penn State Scanticon on the University Park Campus.

"RULE is designed to develop community leaders who have the skills and resources to meet the challenges of the changing rural communities of Pennsylvania," said J.D. Dunbar, RULE program manager. "Participants come from all walks of life and include farmers, homemakers, business and chamber of commerce executives, as well as elected officials. They share a commitment to solving the problems of rural Pennsylvania."

Over a two-year period, the

RULE program provides training and information to help participants enhance analytical, leadership and group dynamic skills, and to increase their understanding of public, business, and government issues.

Speakers at this year's program include international and national authorities on rural issues and leadership. Hans-Christoph von Heydebrand, first secretary of agriculture from the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, discussed agriculture in Germany and Europe. Mary O'Connor of the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program of Ontario, Canada, also addressed the group.

Dr. Dennis Evans, director of the Ag and Forestry Leaders Program in Alabama, presented a session on "How to Work A Room" with Luanne Stauffer, a member

of the Upper Perkiomen Chamber of Commerce and a RULE alumna.

Randy Frazier, an alumnus of Leadership Arkansas, delivered an address entitled "You Can Keep the Change." Frazier, Teresa Griffin and Perry Debter, alumni of the Alabama Leaders Program; Paul Clark, an alumnus of Nebraska Lead; and others also participated in a panel discussion about building connections among leadership development programs in many states.

Steve Tweed of Tweed Jeffries, LCC, Louisville, Ky., delivered an address entitled "Get Ready for the Future." Michael Short, vice-president of Explosive Ordinance Disposal Technology Inc., Knoxville, Tenn., discussed the politics of terrorism.

Dr. Theodore Alter, interim

dean of Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences, discussed food systems and rural development efforts. Phil Dymond, president of Eastern Westmoreland Development Corporation, spoke about personal power. Cheri Kroboth, director of rural health for the Pennsylvania Hospital Associa-

tion and a RULE alumna, delivered an address called "TEAM ... It's Not a Dirty Four Letter Word!"

For more information, please contact RULE, The Pennsylvania State University, 6 Armsby Building, University Park, PA 16802, or call (814) 863-4679.

Lancaster DHIA Expands Service To Franklin County

Lancaster DHIA recently expanded its service area to include Franklin County. After receiving several inquiry calls from Franklin County dairymen, Jere High, Manager of Lab and Technical Support, visited to research the feasibility of providing service to the area. Jere attributes the good response of 25 herds presently enrolled to the wide variety of low cost programs Lancaster DHIA has to offer.

Several dairymen are already

using the herd management PCDART program in their personal computers. Dairymen who are interested in taking their own samples are finding the Basic program an economical alternative at \$.55 per cow.

Lancaster DHIA serves Lancaster, Berks, Dauphin, Chester, Franklin, Lebanon, and York counties. For more information call us at (717) 665-5960; FAX (717) 664-2911; Email - landhia@redrose.net

Economic Impact Of Fairs

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hardware stores that sell supplies to exhibitors and others who attend fairs. When a fair comes to town, even retail outlets are affected, Grumbine indicated.

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge, who attends many state fairs, always uses the statement that fairs are the "showplace of agriculture" in the state, according to Grumbine.

Grumbine has served as a Farm Show commissioner for 16 years and now directs a farm show staff made up of three unions and a payroll close to \$2 million per year. There are a total of 157 different events held in the Farm Show Complex in a year's time.

He spoke about learning what it is like to work with people at the best of Farm Shows and at some of the worst. He noted some of the challenges faced at the 1996 Farm Show, with blizzard conditions, the statewide shutdown, the collapsed roofs, and flooding.

Grumbine noted he was able to not only learn, but to work to make some changes to improve the show. He noted that he was able to bring PCN TV to the show, which provided 44 hours of TV coverage during the infamous winter of 1996, when many people all across the state were shut in from the storm. PCN reached 1.5 million households.

Grumbine believes those telecasts could prove to be "the most educational experience in agriculture that has ever taken place in the commonwealth." As a result, children who were at home watched and learned and decided they wanted to see the Farm Show the next year for themselves.

So this year, more than 180 buses visited the Farm Show, from what Grumbine calls "nontraditional rural schools," he said.

Children can attend the Farm Show as an excused, allowable absence from school under state rules.

Grumbine challenged fair board members across the state to "develop ideas to move the industry forward," he said. Grumbine pointed to newspaper coverage of the recent presidential call to service summit held in downtown Philadelphia. President Clinton called on inner city people to volunteer.

"He was telling inner city people to do exactly what you people are doing in rural Pennsylvania," Grumbine noted.

Of the 113 fairs in the state, all are made up of "hundreds and hundreds of volunteers," said Grumbine. The volunteers arrive ahead of schedule with "weed eaters and shovels" and other equipment to prepare for fairs.

"You people are actually the unsung heroes who hold the social fabric together in rural Pennsylvania," Grumbine said.

Sally Nolt, chairman of PSACF Zone 4, said Wednesday night's attendance was a record for the number of people at a Zone 4 meeting. Ron Miller, fair fund administrator, said the state budget, recently passed, provided a \$300,000 increase to the fair budget, raising the annual budget from \$3.7 to \$4 million. The \$300,000 is being used for capital improvements.

Bruce Koppenhaver said that the PSACF is on the Internet. People can access the association's web site at www.pafairs.org.

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