

Producer Creates Quality

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recently completed. The facility incorporates 2,800 sows, marketing about 56,000 pigs annually.

Using the 2,800-sow system allows the company to use split-sex feeding and phase feeding programs better. Hostetter noted that split-sex and phase feeding works better when the ages of the animals are closer together.

Elements of good neighbor policies — providing a low-cost, profitable facility, and using sound public relations — are tools that the whole industry needs to use more of, according to Hostetter.

Ever since the lagoon spill that happened several years ago in North Carolina, which stirred lots of controversy over the management of manure storage sites, the industry has been on the alert to protect themselves from legislation that could seriously hurt swine farm viability.

The North Carolina incident "made it out to be that we're all bad people — we're just hoodlums that are just trying to make all the money we can and we don't really care about what we leave behind," Hostetter said. "In fact, we're producing food, we're trying to provide good jobs, good families, and have good people around us."

Scott Bailey, an employee of Hostetter Management who oversees several units in Lebanon County, agrees. More so than ever, the industry must learn to communicate with farm neighbors in terms of manure management and providing solid neighbor relations.

Bailey recently received the Pork All American Award at the World Pork Expo in Indianapolis, Ind. in June this year. Bailey, who grew up in New Holland, said those in the industry, to survive, must learn to be "proactive" while adopting all the technologies needed "as they become available."

Bailey recently reviewed the Laurel Ridge liner system site. Bailey, treasurer of the Lan/Chester Pork Producers, said the Laurel Ridge site, an old 500-sow unit, was converted to a 1,400-sow unit in 1995. A lagoon system was installed the same year. The liner system uses 15-20 foot wide 60-mil plastic liners, stretched tight alongside the banks, and the whole lagoon is fenced. Capacity is close to a million gallons.

More and more, according to Hostetter, the industry will be under attack by environmentalists. The business "will continue to be

challenged by environmental groups. And there will be continuous suggestions about different kinds of legislation, different kinds of permitting, suggestions that will challenge large commercial animal units.

"One of the most important things we can do is participate in environmental programs," he said, including the Environmental Quality Assurance Program conducted by the National Pork Producers Council. It is something the whole industry needs to participate in, according to the swine facility manager.

Hostetter recently relocated the business headquarters to Lititz, to be more centrally located for the employees, which number about 50. The business receives all its feed from an Elizabethtown-based feed mill. A nutritionist, Dr. Dick Peacock, Lititz, manages the feed programs for Hostetter Management at all locations.

But quality remains key — to

the product and to the environment.

"We want to do more as a company to establish a high standard," said Hostetter. "Our philosophy is to produce a quality product that people want to eat but not at the risk of raping the environment and not at the risk of our natural resources. That's all part of a good program."

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Ag Secretary Appoints PDPP Board Members

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture, Samuel E. Hayes, Jr., recently announced new appointments to the Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program Commodity Marketing Board.

The six appointees will each serve a three-year term from Oct. 1, 1997 through Sept. 30, 2000.

Dairy farmers reappointed to the PDPP board were Joy L. Crothers, Oxford; Raymond J. Diebold, Altoona; Harold M. Shaulis, Somerset; and Robert F. Pardoe, Milton.

Newly elected to the PDPP board were Bertha Ackerson, Marion Center and Rita Kennedy, Butler.

The Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program (PDPP) is the dairy farmer-funded promotion program representing dairy farmers in 33 counties in western and north central Pennsylvania.

The PDPP Board coordinates and contracts with the American Dairy Association & Dairy Council Mid East to implement advertising, promotion, marketing and nutrition education programs in the 33-county area.

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