

# Farm Bureau Prepares For Convention

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Policies decided then become state policy and are forwarded to the American Farm Bureau for consideration and possible consolidation into national policy.

To help delegates and members better understand the issues which suggested policies are to address, a number of sessions and workshops are scheduled.

In the spring, the PFB surveyed members directly to find concerns, which could be for policy, or just for more information.

Six topics were discovered, according to Janet Carson, a spokesperson for the PFB. The six issues were dairy concerns, electric deregulation, estate planning, handling farm emergencies, farm health issues, and effective use of computers on the farm.

Carson said that with those issues in mind, a number of expert speakers are scheduled to address those issues.

She said that starting 9:30 a.m., Monday, Nov. 17, Dr. Robert Yonkers, a Penn State Extension agricultural economist, and David Walker, the assistant market administrator for the Middle Atlantic federal milk marketing order, are to discuss some of the changes coming to the dairy industry, and

what kind of transitions are anticipated.

Monday afternoon, from 2 p.m. to 3:15 p.m., Thomas Walker, marketing manager of the New York Coffee, Sugar and Cocoa Exchange Inc. is to discuss management of milk price risk using futures and options.

(The N.Y. CSC Exchange recently changed its options strike price fees to reflect 25-cent intervals, rather than having some leaps of 50-cents or more, to make the futures options tool more usable for hedging.)

At the same time, from 2 p.m. to 3:15 p.m., a program is scheduled to address computer uses.

From 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., an educational program for members is to deal with the management of medication.

At the same time, a program is to be held to deal with electric deregulation. Speakers are to be Dennis Buffington, a Penn State professor of agricultural and biological engineering; Eric Levis, legislative representative for the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association; and John F. Sipics, vice president of retail energy supply for Pa. Power & Light Co.

Also at the same time, the PFB Marketing Co-op annual meeting

is to be held.

Among other programs on Monday are the opening luncheon, from 11:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m., with state Secretary of Agriculture Samuel Hayes Jr. slated to speak; and a Young Farmer and Rancher business meeting.

Also on Monday, the PFB board of directors (directors actually start meeting Sunday evening) is to hold a meeting; and then later in the day the delegates are to hold a voting session from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

On Tuesday, a breakfast, followed by district caucuses, and the opening of the registration desk and exhibit area, starts off the day.

An estate planning program is to run from 8:30-10 a.m. with Bob Grove, of Bob Grove Insurance Agency, and of the Farm Bureau's Nationwide Insurance Enterprises, to speak.

Carson said the program is to

deal with what actions and considerations can be done prior to actually deciding who or what is to be the beneficiary of any remaining assets after death.

From 10:30-11:45 a.m., Gregory Jelliff, with the emergency department at Robert Packer Hospital is to be the speaker for a program on emergency responses to accidents on the farm.

The schedule is full of other activities and events, some for specific members, others for general membership.

From noon-1:30 p.m., Tuesday, the annual President's Luncheon is scheduled to be held. In addition to words from PFB President Guy F. Donaldson, there is to be the presentation of the PFB Young Farmer and Rancher awards.

From 1:45-3 p.m. Jane Branstetter is to conduct a workshop on men-women relationships, following a theme of a more recently

popular and heavily marketed program that presents the sexes as being more different than what popular culture has attempted to make people believe. The foundation of the program is that men are different than women, in thinking and actions, and that if those differences are understood then they can better understand each other and have more realistic expectations, and ultimately better and longer relationships.

Meanwhile, delegates are to be holding another voting session.

Health issues are to be considered again from 3:15-4:30 p.m., with Dr. Joanna Cain, Penn State Geisinger Health System director of the division of Obstetrics and Gynecology, to be speaker.

A member reception from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesday is to be followed the annual member recognition banquet, with humorist David Okerlund as the main speaker. Awards to be presented include the Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture award, PFB's distinguished service to agriculture award, All-Star recognition, and the Young Farmer and Rancher Discussion Meet Award.

Entertainment during the reception and banquet is to be Howard Jung on the piano.

A guest-member reception follows.

On Wednesday, a farmer breakfast starts the day from 7-7:45 a.m. with state Rep. Raymond Bunt Jr., chairman of the state House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, set to be the speaker.

The delegates are to conduct a final voting session from 8-11:30 a.m.

The PFB Women's Committee is to meet from 8-9:15 a.m., while food safety considerations are to be presented in a program from 9:30-10:45 a.m., with Christian Herr, state deputy secretary of agriculture for regulatory program, to be the speaker.

The PFB annual business meeting is to be held from 11:30 a.m. until noon, followed by a meeting of the PFB board of directors.

For more information, contact a local PFB leader or call the state office at (717) 761-2740.

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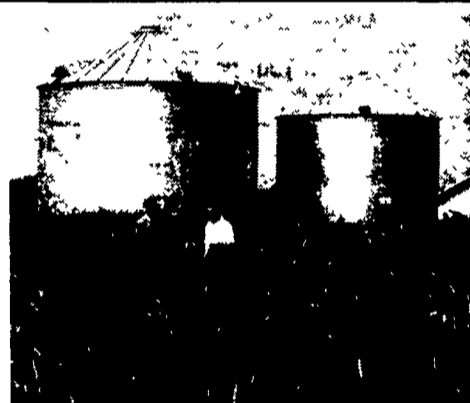
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