

PDA Meat Evaluation Center Accepts Performance Testing Applications

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Meat Animal Evaluation Center is accepting applications for Pennsylvania's performance testing programs for rams and boars.

At this writing, there are only a few pens still available for the Boar Testing Program. The nomination period continues for several more weeks for the Ram Performance Testing Program. We will accept both fall born ram lambs between Sept. 1, 1997 and Dec. 31, 1997, and spring born ram lambs born in January and February of 1998.

The rams nominated will be delivered April 7, 1998. They will then be given a 7-day adjustment period. On April 14, 1998, the rams will be weighed on test. The rams will be weighed every 14 days and progress reports will be sent out to owners and requesting, interested parties. The 84-day test will conclude July 7 and the rams will have their average daily gain, lifetime weight per day of age, and respective ratios calculated. The rams will be shorn, scanned ultrasonically to determine fat thickness and loin-eye area, and undergo breed character and structural evaluations. The rams will have a breeding soundness exam which will include a comprehensive semen evaluation on the fall-born rams.

After all of the objective

evaluations, approximately 75 percent of the rams are selected to be offered in Pennsylvania's Performance Tested Ram Sale. This year's Pennsylvania's 20th Annual Performance Tested Ram Sale is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 1, 1998. The ram sale will be held in conjunction with an invitational ewe sale and the Pennsylvania Sheep Producers Field Day at Penn State's Ag Arena.

Pennsylvania's 23rd Performance Tested Boar Sale is slated

Wednesday evening, Aug. 19. This is scheduled to coincide with Penn State's Ag Progress Days.

For more information on Pennsylvania's performance testing programs or to nominate rams or boars, contact Glenn Eberly, Director, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Meat Animal Evaluation Center, 651 Fox Hollow Rd., State College, PA 16803. Phone (814) 238-2527 or (814) 865-5857 to leave a message or send a fax.

Expansion Seminar Set

CHAMBERSBURG (Franklin Co.) — Is an expanded or new dairy facility on your goal list for the foreseeable future? If so, you should consider attending the half-day expansion seminar sponsored by Franklin County Cooperative Extension on March 17.

The program will be held from 9:45 a.m. until noon at the Franklin County Administration Annex Community Room, Chambersburg. Topics addressed will be "Facilities and Financial Planning." Program participants will be Agricultural

Engineer Dan McFarland and Farm Management Agent Roland Freund.

From 1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., Dan McFarland will be discussing "Free Stall Dairy Shelter Designs That Enhance Management." The day's educational program is two individual presentations that stand alone. Feel free to attend either the morning or afternoon program or both if you care to do so. Lunch is on your own.

Preregistration is not required. For more information, contact extension agent Philip Wagner at (717)263-9226.

Hayes Appoints Purchase To Head State Veterinary Laboratory

HARRISBURG, (Dauphin Co.) — Agriculture Secretary, Samuel E. Hayes, Jr. announced that Dr. H. Graham Purchase of Starkville, Mississippi, has been named chief of the Division of Veterinary Laboratories of the Bureau of Animal Health and Diagnostic Services.

"This position requires the hands of a capable leader with the experience and wisdom to ensure that Pennsylvania's animal agriculture industry remains healthy and safe from disease," said Hayes. "Dr. Purchase enjoys a national and international reputation in veterinary science and is an outstanding administrator who will be a tremendous asset to our laboratory system."

Purchase will be responsible for Veterinary Laboratory pathology Service, Veterinary Laboratory Microbiology Services and Administrative and Maintenance sections of the division.

Gov. Tom Ridge officially opened the department's new \$6.7 million state-of-the-art Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in September 1996. The two-story building replace a 65-year-old laboratory in

Summerdale, Cumberland County. The new lab beside the Agriculture Department Building in Harrisburg, has 32,000 square feet and a staff of 50.

Working as the director of research in Mississippi State University College of Veterinary Medicine since 1988, Purchase received the dean's "Pegasus Award" for external service to the college.

He had previously served with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service from 1974 to 1988. He served as special scientific advisor to the director, Beltsville area; acting chief, Livestock and Veterinary Sciences, National Program Staff; staff scientist for poultry, National Program Staff and veterinary medical officer at the Regional Poultry Research Laboratory, East Lansing, Michigan.

Purchase received a Ph.D. from Michigan State University in 1970. He also earned a master's degree from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, London, England, in 1961.

A member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, Purchase also is a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons; American Association of Avian Pathologists; American College of Veterinary Microbiologists; American College of Poultry Veterinarians; U.S. animal Health Association and Council for Agricultural Science and Technology.

Purchase is married and has two children.

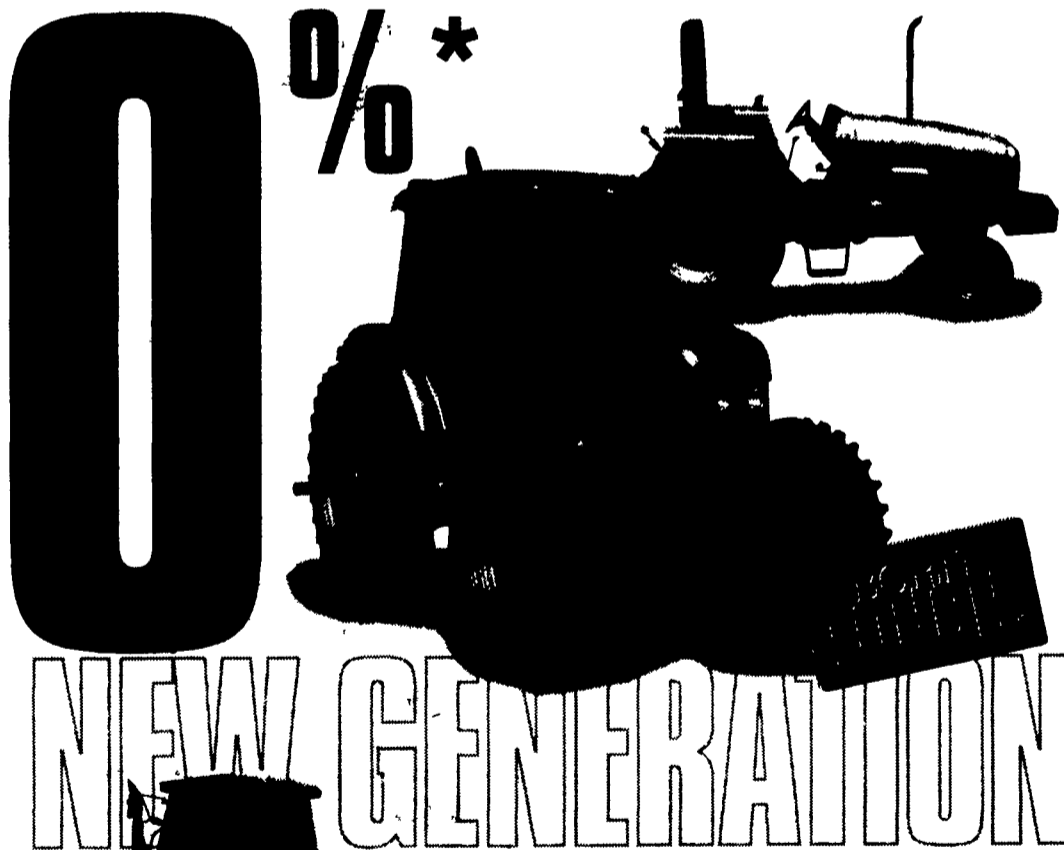
Conservation District Receives Awards

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — The Lancaster County Conservation District was honored March 3 by the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society, Inc. at its annual conference at the Lancaster Host Resort.

More than 250 people were in attendance at the 1998 Awards Banquet at which professionals, students, volunteers, civic organizations, and individual agencies are lauded for their outstanding contributions and dedication to the leisure field.

The conservative district received an Agency Publication Award for the 1996 Annual Report, "Let's Make One Thing Perfectly Clear," and an Excellence in Programming Award for the Environment Education Program.

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