

FARMER Members Care, Make A Difference

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The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau was one of the first groups notified, and, within less than a week, member food processors such as Knouse Foods, Furman Foods, International Home Foods, and Hatfield Quality Meats Inc., were contacted and quickly made substantial contributions, as did FSA and PFB employees.

Other farm groups, such as the Pennsylvania State Grange also donated foods, mostly from employees themselves, but had even less time to respond or contact members with large quantities of foods readily suitable for donation.

The PFB is the state's largest farmer-specific organization.

The State Grange — officially Patrons of Husbandry — represents all rural people.

Altogether, 12 tons of food were delivered. The contributions in Pennsylvania were sent to the Bethesda Mission in Harrisburg.

In a few days, through phone calls made by PFB staff to food processing members about the program, truckloads of foods showed up at the collection site, making Pennsylvania stand out among the states in donating foods to the food banks.

The food banks had been suffering from depleted reserves and a large part of the USDA's mission is involved with providing food vouchers or food to those in need.

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman called for the short-run inhouse contribution campaign in order to help shore up dwindling supplies in food banks in the post-holiday season.

Following that presentation, in other business, Ed Hartman, chairman of the PFB FARMER selection committee, discussed the accomplishments of the group.

He said, since the PFB formed its political action committee FARMER in 1981 it has participated in nine general elections and has seen more than 487 state representatives and senators regarded as "friends of agriculture elected with our help," Hartman said.

He said that in the last election, all of the 71 FARMER-selected and supported candidates were elected to office.

He told the group that the committee is making plans soon for the 1998 election, specifically to decide who is to receive political contributions.

"Your input is important," he told the FARMER membership attending the banquet. He said that support must come from the membership.

The special guest speaker for the fund-raising banquet was Clifford Jones, a political pundit who, officially retired in 1981, has worked for three state governors and served in three state cabinets.

He held the appointed positions of secretary of the state Depart-



Representatives of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) stand in front of the Bethesda Mission, a food bank for soup kitchens in the central Pennsylvania region. The Mission was the recipient of Pennsylvania's effort to participate in a national special program, spearheaded by the USDA FSA, to build up supplies of food in soup kitchens across the nation. From the left are John Cameron, information coordinator for the Pennsylvania division of the USDA FSA; PFB Administrative Secretary Louis Sallie; PFB President Guy Donaldson; Jan Carson, PFB public relations specialist and press liaison; Marlin Miller, PFB manager of member relations division; Bill Baumgartner, USDA FSA director; and Richard Prether, manager of the PFB public relations division.



From the left, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau President Guy Donaldson stands with banquet speaker and well-known political pundit Clifford Jones, and PFB Vice President Carl Shaffer.



From the left, Bill Wehry, chairman of the USDA Farm Service Agency Committee for Pennsylvania, presents a certificate of appreciation from USDA to PFB for the efforts the farm organization made in making Pennsylvania a national leader in providing donations for local soup kitchens.



Greg Kelly, food service director of Bethesda Mission, unloads a skid of canned goods donated by Pennsylvania Farm Bureau members.

ment of Environmental Resources, secretary of the state Department of Commerce, and secretary of the state Department of Labor and Industry.

Furthermore, Jones has served as chairman of the Pennsylvania Utilities Commission (PUC), chairman of the Pennsylvania Republican State Committee, and for 12 years as president of one of the state's most influential lobbying groups, the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry.

He also is chairman of the Pennsylvanians for Effective Government, served on the governor's BRAC committee to try to retain federal defense jobs in Pennsylvania, and he is executive director of a health cost containment group.

In addition, he sits on 20 other boards and committees dealing with communications, cultural and educational issues.

Jones is well known among those in the state's higher political circles as one who is a keen observer and analyst.

As speaker, he was asked to discuss Pennsylvania's outlook for the November elections, which feature re-election campaigns by Gov. Tom Ridge and Lt. Gov. Mark Schweiker (television campaign has started), as well as contested Republican seats in the state and federal House of Representatives.

He said that while U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter has been challenged, he expects Specter to retain his seat, mainly because of his long-time name recognition (he came up with and supports the single-bullet theory in the President Kennedy assassination) and incumbency.

Jones said that he prefer,

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