# FARMER Members Care, Make A Difference

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instead, to look farther that just at the fall's elections.

He said that he would recommend looking to the fall election as a tone-setter for the 1999 primary, and what it can mean to influence federal representation and power.

But first, he told the group, in essence, that they should be encouraged in their political endeavors, mainly because leadership is needed and, unfortunately, it appears that much of the general

### Gov. Ridge Proclaims May Pennsylvania Egg Month

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) Gov. Tom Ridge has proclaimed May as Pennsylvania Egg Month in recognition of the commonwealth's poultry industry and reputation as a world leader in egg production.

Gov. Ridge said Pennsylvania Egg Month honors the commonwealth's egg producers for the economical and nutritious eggs they provide.

Pennsylvania is ranked third nationally in egg production. The state's laying flocks produce nearly six million eggs and generate more than \$264.8 million for the state's economy each year.

"The Ridge Administration continues to work with the state's poultry producers to build an international market for the industry," said Agriculture Secretary

Samuel E. Hayes Jr. "Gov. Ridge and I are committed to helping the poultry industry expand and to protecting poultry flocks from devastating diseases such as avian influenza.

Following the 1997 avian influenza outbreak, Gov. Ridge worked with the General Assembly to secure \$5 million to provide financial assistance to affected Lancaster and Lebanon counties poultry producers.

Also, the Ridge Administration's Agriculture and Health departments worked with the Pennsylvania Poultry Federation to develop the Pennsylvania Egg Quality Assurance Program (PEQAP), a public/private partnership designed to assure the quality and safety of eggs produced in Pennsyvania.

public is either too busy, too wrapped up in their own lives, or too apathetic to be concerned.

"That leaves it to people who really care," he said, "and you do."

He said that those attending the banquet should be proud because of their participation in helping to influence the system of public policy creation and development.

Jones said FARMER members should be proud of their efforts because they are the ones who show up at functions and events, who pay to support issues and candidates, and who are not afraid to get out and work for their candidates.

But he said that instead of just looking at fall elections, he prefers to consider primary elections as key elections, because they determine who is going to be contending for seats in November.

Likewise, he said that Pennsylvania's November elections are important because they set the power balance and tone for primaries next year, when the Republican majority of the House of Representatives is expected to be challanged.

He said the outcome of the govemor's race this fall, along with the outcome of races for several Pennsylvania seats on the U.S.

House of Representatives will be key in setting the tone for next year's primary.

He said the outcome of the race for incumbent U.S. Rep. Bill Goodling's federal seat is important. (Goodling was first elected to the United States House in 1974.)

He said that during this last term, Goodling has been chairman of the education committee and he is being questioned in the campaign in terms of whether he is "conservative" enough for his constituency.

Jones said that those who feel he is should go out and support Goodling. "The outcome will depend on those who care," he said.

FARMER members should keep in mind that many political races can come down to the difference between "a couple hundred votes or a couple thousand dollars," he said.

He said that Goodling's race is important because it helps determine whether U.S. Congress for the last two years of Clinton's term will be Republican powered, or Democratically powered.

Voting for individuals not only has bearing locally, but it has bear-

ing on national issues and the political power environment that can allow agendas to move forward, he

As a group, he said FARMER members need to know where it is they want to go, policy wise, and politically how to get there.

In other words, he was advising them to develop a strategy to accomplish their agenda and to develop their politic action strategy upon that foundation.

But he also urged them not to become trapped into the politically imprudent practice of becoming "one-issue" voters and decide whom to support on one platform

He said this is a dangerous practice for those who truly wish to accomplish larger political goals because an announced position on one issues such as abortion rights, does little to ensure that the candidate has any political savy, understanding of the constituency, competency to perform, or ability to deliver on any promises once in

Instead, he said he recommends selecting candidates who can be

By that, he explained that, in his experience, a public representative who generally agrees with the majority of policy positions of his constituency, who is open to discussing the issue and can intelligently explain why he may disagree with a position and can't in good conscience vote for it, is a better choice as a political representative than someone who champions a single cause, or happens to publicly support one issue.

Jones also said he had respect and thanks for those who are willing to lend themselves to public service and the political process.

He said it is difficult for anyone because "anything you did bad will be in the newspapers, and if you never did anything bad, it will still be in the newspapers (that you did)."

Public representatives are always vilified for their personal convictions, he said.

"When we look at a legislator, a senator or congressman, you may think, 'That's a good job!" Jones said, adding that it really isn't. 'It's a tough job."

He said that those who don't feel they have the pockets or free time to dedicate to a candidate's campaign can do other such things as allowing signs to be placed in their yard, or in cases where local ordinances forbid such signage, bumper stickers prominently displayed help create the necessary name recognition needed for election.

He said letter writing, willingness to be part of a radio program or advertisement can also be key contributions to carrying out a successful campaign.

Personal endorsements are also important, he said, especially from farmers.

Though he didn't specifically refer to the fact that farmers enjoy a public perception of wholesomeness, honesty and family values, despite public sentiment against "corporate farming" and pesticides, etc., he said, "Your voice as a farmer means more. Your public endorsement (of a candidate), any way you can, can make a difference," he said.

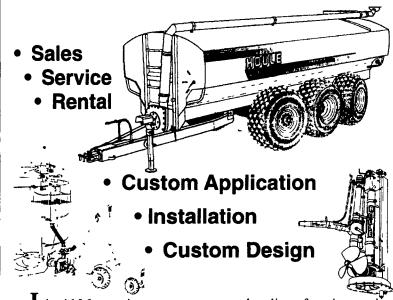
He said farmers who freely speak to others about candidates in personal conversations (even at a public store), at public events or in news interviews, will have an impact on the

He also said that it should be considered that a person's livelihood is very much affected by public policy making and those who work as hard for a candidate as they do for a living will have the candidates they want.

Additionally, Jones did a brief and rapid review of some of the contested and unusual races in the state for this fall. Though he didn't delve deeply into them, he mentioned enough specifics to indicate he was aware of the key issues that appear to hold the most influence in the outcome of those races.

However, he didn't predict any of those races, rather mentioning them and advising the group to select carefully.

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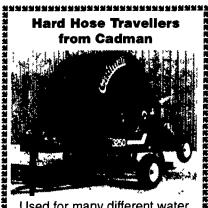




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