



Pennsylvania's Samuel Hayes Addresses Ag Issues Forum

"I want you to know that in Pennsylvania there are a million plus cafeteria school meals served to the commonwealth's children every day. That's a lot of exposure and opportunity for things to go wrong. We still have a few schools in session, so I don't want to be too quick to speak, but we have gone the whole year without any food safety problems in any of the 6,000 school cafeterias. That's as close to zero tolerance as you can get."—Samuel E. Hayes Jr., Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture, at the Ag Issues Forum.

group included about 100 important agricultural leaders and officials from across the state's legislative and agricultural community.

Sec. Hayes said the food safety achievement in the school cafeteria program will not make headlines in

the city and urban media by reporting such a good story. From producers, processors, and distributors to the keepers of food stuffs in the school cafeterias, Hayes said all had a part in this food safety achievement.

"We need to protect the consumer with food safety," Hayes said. "But we also need to protect agriculture from an undeserved image that we are not producing the best, safest food in the world."

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EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) -

At a breakfast meeting Thursday the Ag Issues Forum convened at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) building to hear Pennsylvania's Secretary of Agriculture Samuel Hayes, Jr., discuss

his perspectives and priorities of the Department of Agriculture.

The Forum, a group of farmers and agribusiness leaders under the chairmanship of Michael Brubaker, usually meets monthly in the Lancaster area to debate and become informed about current events in agriculture. This month's

New President Wants To Let Others Know About FFA

ANDY ANDREWS

Lancaster Farming Staff

STATE COLLEGE (Centre

Co.) — Luke Zerby, new state FFA president, wants to spread the news.

"I think one of the things I'd like to do is provide ways for the public to become more informed about the FFA," he said.

Last week, the new state FFA officers were selected, including Zerby, West Snyder FFA member. One of Zerby's goals, he noted in a recent telephone interview, is to inform the public about the meaning and purpose of FFA.

"We want to make sure we get out there and allow everybody to learn about the FFA," he said.

He'll have help from fellow FFA officers.

Allyson Cole, new state FFA reporter from Littlestown FFA, understands the importance of disseminating information about what the FFA means and the extent of its community involvement. She has maintained a good working relationship with the press — including such newspapers as the Hanover Evening Sun and the Gettysburg Times.

"They've done an excellent job

for Littlestown FFA, always sending people out to cover our events," she said.

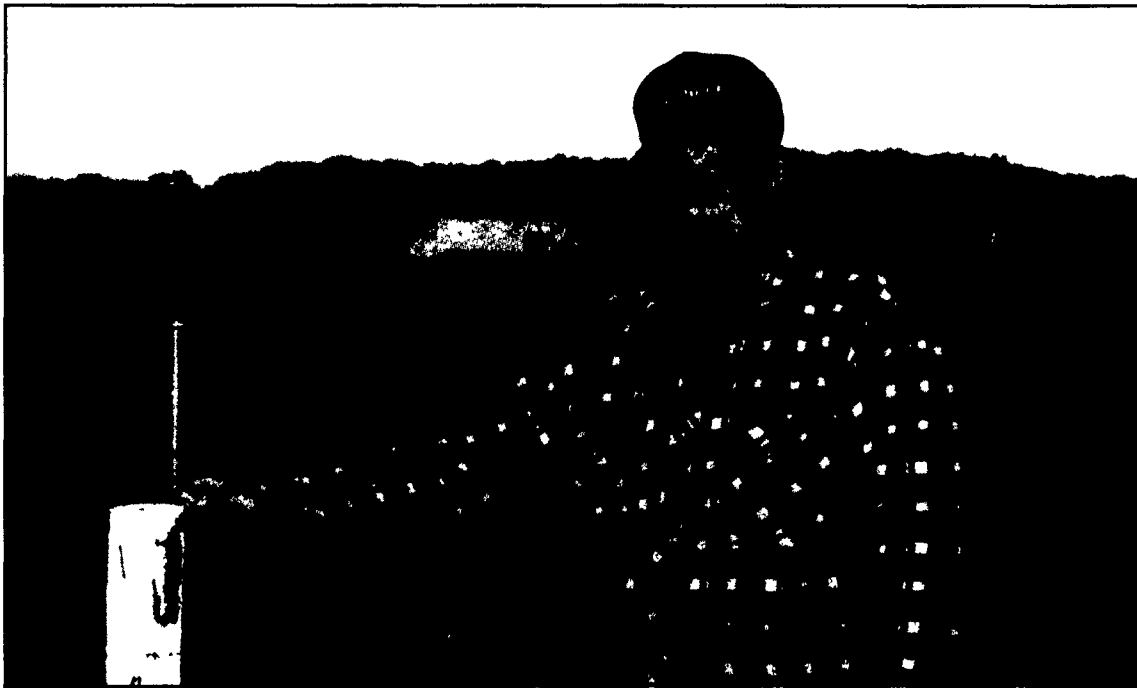
In the future, Cole intends to work closely with radio and TV stations to provide news about local and statewide FFA activities.

Last week capped a busy time for the approximately 8,000 FFA members at the 1998 Summer FFA Convention during FFA Activities Week at Penn State. While mem-

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Luke Zerby



Bob Boyce is a Cumberland County farmer who grazes beef cattle on Lil' Ponderosa Farm. He uses rotational grazing on a cow-calf farm and sells freezer beef and breeding stock. See story page A21. Photo by Andy Andrews.

Office Closed July 3

To celebrate Independence Day, the office of *Lancaster Farming* is closed on Friday, July 3. The office will reopen on Monday, July 6.

Deadlines are as follows:

- Mailbox Markets — 5 p.m., Friday, June 26.
- Public Sale, Auction Report ads — 5 p.m., Monday, June 29.
- Classified, Section D ads — 5 p.m., Tuesday, June 30.
- Classified, Section C, Farm Equipment ads, 9 a.m. Wednesday, July 1.
- General News — noon, Wednesday, July 1.

Clawsons Concentrate On Needs Of Holsteins

RANDY WELLS

Indiana Co. Correspondent

The old adage "It pays to specialize" is proving true for Indiana County dairy farmers George and Ginny Clawson and their son Dennis.

At their Blacklick Township, Indiana County farm, the Clawsons are moving away from the tradition of caring for cows and growing corn and hay to feed them. Instead, the Clawsons have relinquished much of their crop land to another farmer and are spending their extra time pampering their Holsteins.

"It's the livestock that's making you money. You can't sell them

short," Ginny said.

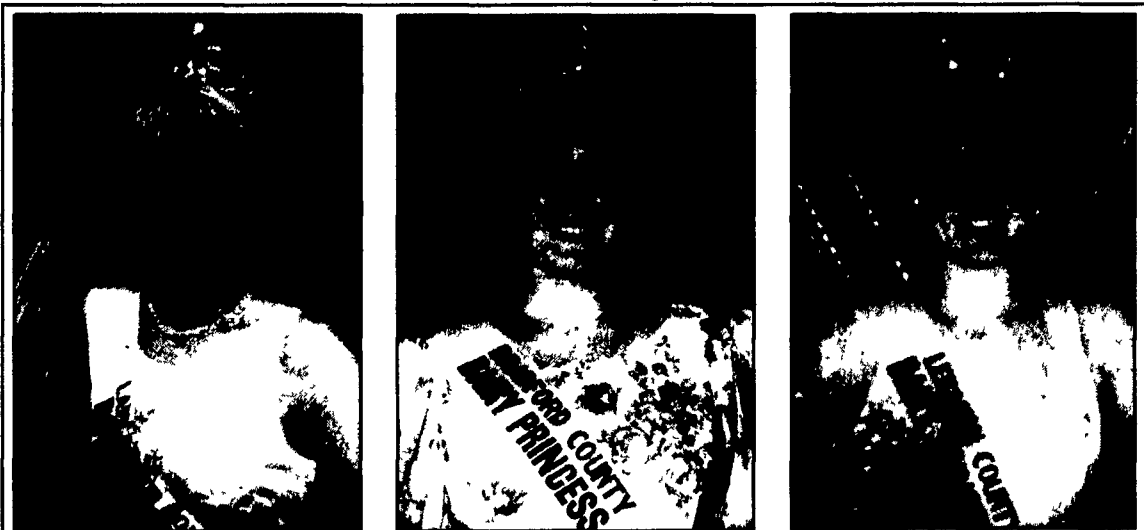
The changes on the Clawson farm date back to the summer drought of 1988. The Clawsons that year were forced to buy corn after their crop shriveled, and they found buying corn was easier than growing it. And they discovered the hay they have started buying is of a better quality than the hay they could grow on their own.

Last year the Clawsons turned over most of their crop and to Stanley Auen, a crop farmer who lives near Saltsburg. This year Auen will plant, cultivate, spray, and harvest corn from about 100 acres of the Clawson farm. The

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Members of the Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association expressed excitement as they plan for the National Young Farmers Educational Institute in Hershey next year. See their news pages beginning on page A32.



From left, Audra Wood, Lancaster; Taltha Coolbaugh, Bradford; and Heidi Finnicle, Lebanon, are three of the many county dairy princesses being selected this month to promote the dairy industry. Read about these pageants in the "B" section.