

# Governor's School Is 'Life-Changing Event'

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will show how the school has been instrumental in opening the doors for opportunity in some area of agriculture and what that has done for the careers of graduates.

Fivek said that a graduate of the school, Nicole Rovner from Lancaster, spoke on opening day to the 64 students in the program about why she enrolled and what the program meant to her. Rovner, a staff attorney in the Natural Resources Section of the Virginia Division of Legislative Services, spoke about how the Governor's School impacted her decision to study wildlife and fish science and how, eventually, she earned a law degree that focuses on those studies. Rovner spoke about the "world of opportunity" that opened for her in various agriculture-related fields, according to Fivek.

Another graduate of the program is Kerry Golden, executive director of the Pa. House Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee. Golden, originally from Chambersburg, is a 1986 graduate of the program.

Amy Eoepchino-Taylor, originally from Hanover, is also a graduate of the program. She is a research scientist in product deve-

lopment at Hershey Foods Corp., Hershey.

The program is limited to the "sons and daughters of Pennsylvania taxpayers," said Fivek. Sixty-four free scholarships are granted to students that meet the requirements for entry into the school. Those requirements include a student application which includes an introductory essay, an essay on the student's topic of choice related to ag science, two high school teacher recommendations, and one recommendation from the high school counselor. The student must submit their high school transcripts. Students do not have to be enrolled in 4-H, FFA, or in an ag science curriculum in high school to apply.

The application is reviewed by a committee of the Governor's School. About 320 applicants were received this year. Out of those, 64 were chosen for the five-week-long school.

"One of the goals of the program is to help individuals understand just what is involved in agriculture science," said Fivek. Fivek said that people still misinterpret ag science to mean simply conventional farming—even though agricultural science takes into account a wide array of topics, from food engineering to paper production,

plant production, and management.

The school "gives them a head start and prepares them to make the step from high school to college," she said.

In the end, graduates who go on to study and obtain degrees in an ag-related field can help shore up the shortage of qualified professionals in food and agricultural resource sciences.

Students enrolled this year come from various towns, including Sugar Run, New Holland, Berwick, Titusville, Uniontown, Elizabeth, Drums, Cochran, Erie, Greensburg, Wind Gap, and Southampton. Students also attend from Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

All students take core courses and 2-3 electives. Core courses involve more than one type of class plus laboratory experience. Students also pursue an independent study project (ISP) and receive leadership training.

The program's seminar component offers advice on higher education and career opportunities. Guest lecturers, discussion groups, and field trips round out the school. Course offerings are revised each year. ISP projects reflect research at Penn State.

The course provides a "showcase" of ag-related topics. Core

courses include agricultural economics and agribusiness, animal science, agricultural engineering, food science, natural resource management, plant science, cultural and creative studies, and ecology and community. Research opportunities include the ISP, computer laboratory, and radiation concepts.

In radiation concepts, students study the applications of radioactive tracers and radiation imaging as used in agricultural and genetic research. Students tour the Penn State Radiation Science and Engineering Center and use Geiger counters to determine the penetrating capabilities of different types of radiation and the half-life of a radioisotope.

All this helps "provide hands-on experience in new technologies and research techniques available in the food, agricultural, and natural resource sciences," according to the 1998 objectives of the Governor's School. The objectives note the school will "assist the participants in learning that the agricultural sciences provides an array of interesting and rewarding careers."

"Feedback indicates that approximately 40 percent of the graduates have gone on to study

something related to ag science," said Fivek. They have enrolled in a variety of programs not only at Penn State, but at Cornell University, Delaware Valley College, and other schools.

The last study to document what career decisions graduates have made was completed in 1991 noted Fivek. The next study, to be conducted in the following year will examine how the school has impacted their lives.

Because of the success of the program, other schools are consulting with Penn State about developing their own program.

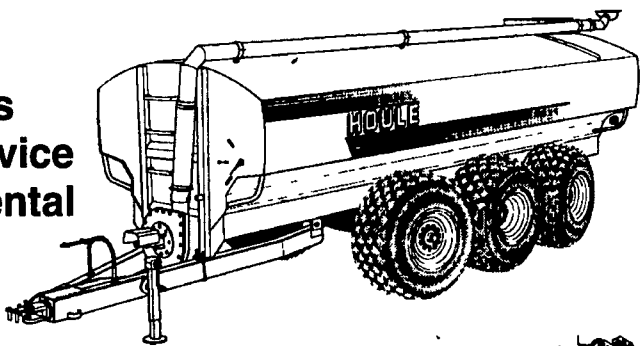
One such state is South Carolina, which wants to model a program after the Pennsylvania Governor's School.

In all, there have been 768 enrolled in the school since began in 1986. Penn State keeps an updated database on all the graduates, including their career choices, where they live, what awards they received, and other information.

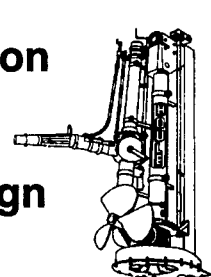
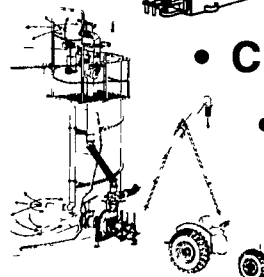
This Sunday, at Sunset Park (close to the University Park Campus), a reunion of graduates is scheduled at Alumni Day from noon to 5 p.m. The free picnic is open to any graduate of the school. Fivek said that it is "never to late to show up" for graduates interested in attending.

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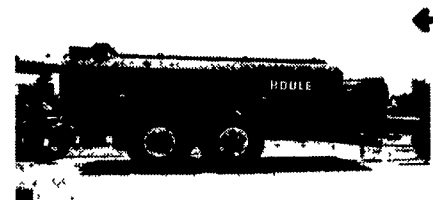
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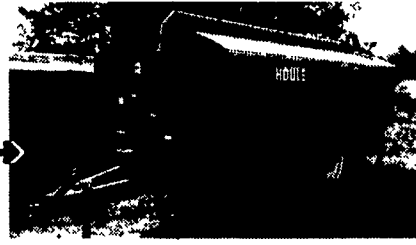


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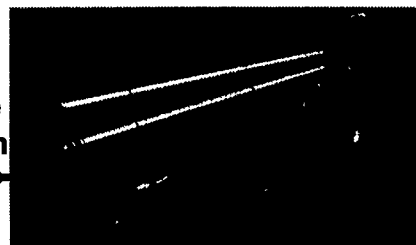


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## New York Farm Bureau Develops Policy

GLENMONT, N.Y. — New York Farm Bureau will begin developing policy initiatives for the 1998-99 state legislative session with a July 16 "Summer '98 Grassroots Kick-Off."

Summer '98 Grassroots Kick-Off will be a daylong policy development, membership and political education and awareness event held at the Empire Room at the State Fair Grounds in Syracuse. It is open to all New York Farm Bureau members.

As a grassroots farm membership organization, New York Farm Bureau develops its policy initiatives through policy development exercises such as Summer '98.

All policy is developed through member participation, which sets New York Farm Bureau apart from many membership organizations.

This year's Issue Forum will focus on two important farm topics, "New York Tort Laws: Are they Driving You Out of Business?" and "Using IPM to Market Fruits and Vegetables." The state's largest farm advocacy organization also kicks off its membership effort.

This year's theme, "From the Grassroots Up, Farm Bureau the Driving Force," will highlight the nearly 30,000-member farm advocacy organization's reliance on membership in making things happen from the county government level all the way up to the state legislature.

Summer '98 Grassroots Kick-Off also will feature several workshops, including "Political Education and Awareness" and "Policy Development: A Key to Our Future."

New York Farm Bureau is the statewide lobbying/trade organization that represents more than 28,400-member farm families. The organization is known to its members and the public as "The Voice of Agriculture." New York Farm Bureau is dedicated to solving economic and public policy issues challenging the agricultural industry.

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