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National Agriculture Bankers Visit Pennsylvania

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Managing Editor
HERSHEY (Dauphin Co.) — A group of national agriculture lenders were in town last weekend into Monday to visit local farms and agribusinesses and attend educational seminars on the unique aspects of agriculture.

The meeting agenda Monday morning included subjects related to working relationships between lending institutions and agribusiness; legislative initiatives and agriculture trade options. These subjects were covered by Bruce Limpert, director of corporate planning and analysis, Wengers Feed Mill, Inc., Rheems; The Honorable Noah Wenger, Pennsylvania state senator and majority caucus chairman and acting chairman of

the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, Harrisburg, and The Honorable David Spears, commissioner, commodities futures trading commission, Washington, D.C. The Honorable Samuel Hayes, Jr., Pennsylvania's secretary of agriculture, was the guest speaker.

In the business meeting Sunday, discussions were held on the Farmer Mac AgVantage and how to make the ABA Ag Bankers advisory work group work better. In the evening the bankers and their spouses and children visited the governor's mansion in Harrisburg. The American Bankers Association

is headquartered in Washington, D.C. and is the voice of the American banking industry. Along with participation in public relations and legislative efforts for the banking industry, ABA conducts educational and training programs for its members.

One such arm of the national

organization is the Agricultural and Rural Bankers Committee that is currently chaired by Darvin Boyd, senior vice president and director of the Agri-Finance department, First Union/CoreStates, Lancaster. It was through Boyd's efforts that the

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Milk Price Makes Record Jump Of \$2.22

NEW YORK, N.Y. — The June Basic Formula Price (BFP) for milk was announced earlier this month at \$13.10 per hundredweight at a 3.5% butterfat content. This is \$2.22 higher than the May BFP of \$10.88 and represents the largest price increase for milk ever recorded. The previous record of \$1.12 was set in 1997. The record price decline for the BFP is \$2.52.

A combination of factors are credited for the strong milk prices. Butter/powder returns are very favorable given the record butter prices. Also expectations of higher prices have caused cheese inventories to be building. Seasonal declines in milk production are resulting in tight supply conditions in some regions of the country. Additional good news shows the outlook for July to be very positive as well with price expectations expected near record levels.

At \$14.49, the BFP hit an all time high for the month of July in 1996. This year the July BFP contract at the trading exchange is

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The agricultural and rural bankers committee of the American Bankers Association toured Lancaster County last Saturday as part of the committee's annual meeting in Hershey. They visited farms and agribusinesses in the area and took a photo break on the lawn of the Robert Rohrer and

Sons family farm at Washington Boro. The Rohrer family includes parents Robert and Lorraine, son Bob and his wife Robin and children Tiffany and Tyler; son Mike and his wife Lori and children Brittany, Andrea, and Mitchell, and sons Bill and Tony. Photo by Everett Newswanger, managing editor.

State Sheep, Wool Growers Hold 50th Keystone

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The 50th annual Keystone Stud Ram and Ewe Show and Sale

was held July 10-11 at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg.

Judge of the show was Bud Martin of Ohio. The show was held July 10 and the sale was held July 11, with 152 sheep sold for an overall average of \$238 per animal, according to show manager David Harpster of Boalsburg.

Gary Saylor of Bell Center, Ohio, and DeWitt Evans of Jamestown, Ohio, were the auctioneers.

The show was sponsored by the

Pennsylvania Sheep and Wool Growers Association, and run by a committee of members.

Committee members include David Harpster, Bruce Snyder, Ron Miller, Dick Wise, Bob Calvert, Tom Calvert, Ben Bow, and George Hunter.

While most organizations make a special note of half-century milestones, not so with the Pa. Sheep and Wool Growers with respect to the Keystone Ram and Ewe Show and Sale. Nevertheless,

the show has been an important one on the circuit and continues to be an important event to exhibit and offer top quality breeding and showing stock.

Next year the show is to receive national attention.

It was announced that the 1999 Keystone Ram and Ewe Show and Sale will also serve as host event for the 1999 national Corriedale youth division show, as well as an open division show and sale.

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Dairy Of Distinction Winners Named

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) - Everyone traveling in Pennsylvania, both consumers and farmers, will have beautiful dairy farms to observe as they drive through our countryside. At this time each year the new Dairy of Distinction signs go up at the end of winning farm lanes to show everyone they have been judged to be clean, well-kept farmsteads.

This year 33 new farms have been added to the 666 farms that had been recognized up to this time since the program began in Pennsylvania in 1987.

The Northeast Dairy Farm Beautification program sponsors these awards to recognize those dairy farmers who pay particular attention to the appearance of their land and buildings. Most people

who drive by the farm don't realize that, in addition to a lot of work to produce the milk, it also takes a lot of effort to keep the farmstead looking nice, too. But whenever a consumer sees a nice-looking dairy farm, the association with good wholesome milk is easy. And milk gets good publicity from this visual association.

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At the Pennsylvania DHIA Summer Conference, Anne Couch of Huntingdon County received the Herb Gilmore Award from Dave Slusser, general manager. See story page A22.