

Young Cooperators From Four States Attend Conference

PATTON (Cambria Co.) — Young Cooperators from four states recently participated in the Pennsylvania Council of Cooperatives' (PCC) annual Young Cooperative Leaders Conference held at the Allenberry Resort, Boiling Springs. Thirty attendees from Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey and West Virginia enjoyed three days of fellowship and learning, lead by a team of former YCL participants, cooperative and industry leaders, and ag education personnel.

Conference objectives included: increasing understanding of co-op issues and affairs, develop leadership attitudes and skills, recognize and effectively use all family members, provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and experiences, and provide management skills training.

These objectives were met this year through a variety of presentations and activities led by key educators. Co-op basics were presented by Robert Cohen, ACIDI/VOCA; a workshop on communications and farm family relationships was led by Dr. Bernie Erven, Ohio

State University; a hands-on session regarding developing positive media relations was led by Francine Hogan, Genex Co-op, and Stephanie Myers, MD & VA Milk Producers. Dr. Stanley Mandel, Wake Forest University, presented a workshop on business and estate planning and developing a mis-

sion statement and operating principles for the farm. Attendees were also treated to a tour of the Land o' Lakes processing facility located in Boiling Springs.

The third day of the program was highlighted by round table discussions with cooperative leaders. Attendees had the

opportunity to sit face-to-face with directors, CEOs, and co-op employees representing 14 different cooperative businesses.

Six attendees were recognized for their leadership and involvement throughout the conference and were asked to return as part of a planning

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PDA

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If breeding stock is valued at \$400 per animal by the industry, as opposed to, for example, \$50 per animal at market value, the difference is significant to the breeder who could suffer large losses because of the government's inability or refusal to acknowledge the additional value in breeding stock.

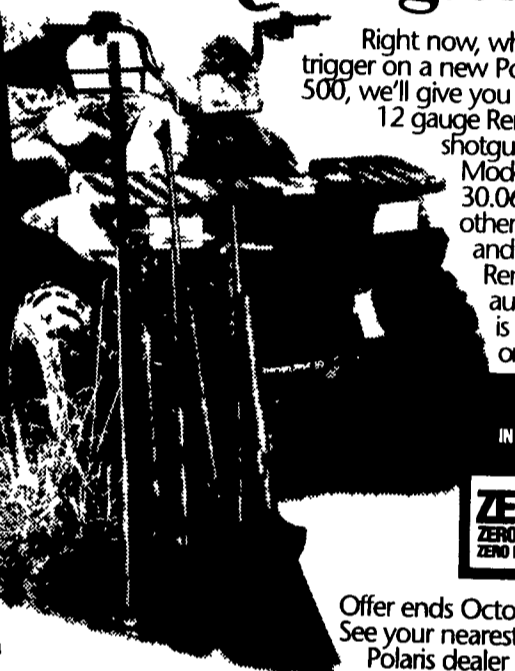
When the issue was raised during the commission meeting, it was said that when and if the need for condemnation and indemnification is apparent, that the state's consulting pseudorabies committee — that includes many representatives of the industry — will be called upon to help make those decisions.

The accuracy of the testing used was also questioned during the commission meeting, and it was reported that the tests seem to err more on the side of a false positive, which means that an additional confirmation test would be needed to ensure that a producer is not being required to depopulate a herd wrongly.

For more specific information, contact the PDA, a veterinary professional, or an industry representative.



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