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Pa. State Grange Prepares To Tackle Issues

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — The Pennsylvania State Grange on Monday presented some of its concerns that are to be debated for possible policy adoption by its delegate body at its upcoming state convention, Oct. 24-28 in Meadville.

In a recent first for the organization, the general and agricultural press were invited to listen to the Pa. State Grange committee and subcommittee chairpeople present some of its concerns and issues of concern from which policy may be developed.

The event was topical, especially since the state Legislature reconvened session this week, and is expected to be active until taking a break prior to Nov. 3 elections, and then reconvening later.

Duroc Breed Has Both Supremes At York Fair Show

YORK (York Co.) — The supreme champions at the 1998 York Fair open swine breeding show came from the Duroc Breed. Rodger Bankert, Hanover, had the grand champion Duroc boar that went on to be the supreme champion boar of the show.

Ray Rodgers, Columbia, had the grand champion sow that was later named supreme champion sow of the show.

Other champion winners in the Duroc breed are Rodger Bankert, reserve champion boar and reserve champion sow.

In the Hampshire breed, Matt Trostle, Red Lion had the champion boar and the champion sow. Donna & JC Strawbridge, Whitehall, had the reserve champion boar and reserve champion sow.

In the Poland show, Cheryl Benecoff, Kutztown, had all four champions.

In the Spotted show, Larry Robinson, Delta, had both the champion boar and the champion

After a welcome by State Grange Master William Steel, and informal time allowed for discussion, Grange Legislative Director Brenda Shambaugh explained the Grange's policy development process.

The National Grange is a nation-

al organization of state organizations. Each state organization is comprised of county level organizations called the "Pomona" Granges.

Counties can have several to none subordinate, or local, Granges.

Members present issues of concern and potential policy statements or positions to local Granges, which are discussed and may be forwarded to the county level, where they can be amended or condensed with similar statements from other local Granges.

From the county Granges, the state organization subcommittees review the submitted potential policy statements, again revising if

necessary to provide a policy that reflects the desires of members.

Those policy proposals are then debated and voted upon by the state Grange delegates during its annual convention.

State policy that is developed is then forwarded to the National Grange, where a similar process occurs through the national delegates at the national convention.

(Continued from Page A37)



State Ag Secretary Samuel Hayes Jr., visited many of Pennsylvania's local and county fairs during the last two months. Here he is seen in the Ephrata Fair with two young riders, Jordon Kaye, top, and Ryan Herr.

sow. Michael & Gene Weber, Shrewsbury, had both the reserve champion boar and the reserve champion sow.

In the Yorkshire show, Donna & JC Strawbridge had the grand and reserve grand champion boars. Allen Cornbower, New Freedom had both the grand and reserve champion sows.

(Turn to Page A28)

Elsie Wolff Receives All-American Image Award

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — After a great day in the show ring, Elsie Wolff sat down to enjoy the All-American buffet held as part of the dairy show, but soon she was on stage accepting the Pennsylvania All-American dairy show's 1998 image award. The image award is given to someone who is a leader and promoter of the All-American dairy show and the overall dairy industry.

Elsie Wolff certainly works above and beyond the award criteria. Growing up on her family's Guernsey farm gave Elsie her foundation in what has become a lifelong dedication to the Guernsey industry. She has served as secretary of the Pennsylvania Guernsey Breeders Association since 1980.

She said, "I haven't been with the show for all 35 years, only 33 years." Her work for the good of the All-American show has led to higher quality competition, better lighting, an improved microphone system and she is continually looking for new exhibitors to expand the show and increase competition.

Her awards include numerous All-American awards, All-Pennsylvania awards and she is

a member of the American Guernsey Cattle Club. She has

(Turn to Page A24)



Elsie Wolff receives the Pennsylvania All American show image award from Obie Snider. The award, a hand-crafted stained glass hanging mirror, is given in recognition of someone who has improved the image of the show.



The supreme champion sow at the York Fair open swine show is owned by Ray Rogers, right, and shown here with Matt Parsons, show judge.