

*****5-DIGIT 16802
823 P3 ***
056034 980930
PERIODICALS DIVISION
PENN STATE UNIVERSITY
W209 PATTE LIBRARY
UNIV PARK PA 16802 048



Aquaculture Now Legal As Agriculture In Pennsylvania

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Aquaculture in Pennsylvania is to soon be formally recognized as agriculture and encouraged in its development.

On Oct. 16, state Gov. Tom Ridge signed into law the state Aquaculture Development Law, which goes into effect mid-December.

Though the law was expected to be passed by the current Legislature, the importance of the now officially recognized branch of agriculture has not been lost on the industry.

That goes for the state Farm Show Commission, as well.

In fact, the Farm Show Commission, which oversees the state Farm Show Complex and the organization of the annual state Farm Show, has been aggressive in helping to promote the industry.

For the first time this year, there's to be a new state Farm Show judging division for show classes that reflect student aquacultural projects currently conducted by high school students. (They must be enrolled in classes taught by agricultural instructors, which, to knowledge, follows

(Turn to Page A30)



For their efforts to conserve soil and protect the watershed, Dave and Sharon Bishop of Ensenada Farm in Plumstead Township, Bucks County, were honored early this month by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) at its annual awards banquet in Scranton. Photo by Andy Andrews

Flood, Erosion Control Vital To Conservation Award Winners

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff
DOYLESTOWN (Bucks Co.) — David and Sharon Bishop remember the night of "no sleep."

On a day in mid-July 1988, monsoon-like rains began and, by early evening, four inches of rain had fallen.

The tropical storm caused a tributary, which runs between the house and the barn, to flood. Floodwater from the creek came up to the second step on the house and tore a four-foot deep ditch through their lane.

The floodwater flowed through the barn, where cows were in water up to their udders.

The rain stopped late in the evening. However, at 2 a.m. the Bishops were still standing in water.

David said, "I know we didn't get any sleep that night."

The rain "washed the lane out," said Sharon. She said an excavator had to come with stones to put the lane back together before the milk truck could get in.

The same year a stream overflow channel was placed around the house and barn. In 1991, pipes to allow flows to pass through the original channel but route excessive flows around the buildings and back into the original stream below the farm were installed with the help of the organization formerly known as the Soil Conservation Service (now Natural Resource Conservation Service or NRCS). Cost for the pipe system: about \$6,700, including engineering fees, said David.

Before long, the work to control stormwater flow paid off — there was no more flooding. The Bishops' only worry has been to make sure the flow continues,

despite severe ice and snow storms in the past several years. All told, the use of 1,600 feet of grassed waterways and 4,900 feet of diversions to control water flow have stemmed soil erosion on the Bishop Farm.

For their efforts to conserve soil and protect the watershed, the Bishops of Ensenada Farm in Plumstead Township were honored early this month by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts (PACD) at its annual awards banquet in Scranton.

David is a fourth generation farmer on the dairy. David's father, George, developed a conservation plan in 1967 and promptly had the farm contoured and stripcropped.

Dave Bishop practices conservation tillage on all cropland. This spring, he no-tilled 235 acres of

(Turn to Page A20)

Poultry Association Faces Challenges

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff
WILLOW STREET (Lancaster Co.) — "This year has brought the stark realities of the industry to a head," said John Mattilio, president of the Lancaster County Poultry Association, at its annual banquet held Tuesday evening.

The reappearance of avian influenza (A.I.) in county flocks last winter resulted in additional problems for both producers and industry. Challenges with manure disposal, stockpiling litter, weather-related problems, and preventing and controlling AI all contributed to taking money out of producers' pockets.

The Association tackled environmental, food safety, and rural-urban issues this past year. The Association's annual Poultry Progress Day, where poultry producers are taught how to best tackle these problems, needed to be cancelled because of the A.I. scare.

Not all the news was downcast. The industry released its first professionally-prepared video, "It's Not Just Chicken Feed," which tells the story of the egg. To the beat of peppy music, the story is comically presented but packed with facts. Inspector George and Chicken Farmer Sam illustrate the biosecurity methods used to guar-

antee that eggs are safe to eat. The video is to be used in school presentations and as an educational tool in other public events. A copy of the video is available upon request.

Another outstanding achievement was that Kendra Weaver, former poultry ambassador, was featured on the cover of Lancaster County Magazine.

"We (the poultry industry) received publicity we never had before through Kendra's efforts," Mattilio said.

Sarah Woodling was introduced as the newly appointed Poultry

(Turn to Page A32)

Pa. Cooperatives Council Recognizes Outstanding Efforts

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
ALTOONA (Blair Co.) — The Pennsylvania Council of Cooperatives (PCC) held its annual meeting and awards program Wednesday at the Altoona Ramada Inn.

The annual meeting of the more than 25-year-old organization is held to recognize outstanding achievements of members, discuss issues of concern, provide educational forums, and conduct association business.

In association business, the directors re-elected its slate of officers. They are Randall Meabon, president; James Barnett, vice president; and Bruce Stainbrook, executive director. The position of secretary is non-elected and is fulfilled by the executive director, Crystal Smithmyer.

The day's program began with

leadership training in the morning; was followed by an awards luncheon featuring state Secretary of Agriculture Samuel E. Hayes Jr.; then two speakers — Dennis Hatfield, a senior leadership consultant with the Gallup Organization, and state Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Russell Redding; and a discussion by two representatives of the large dairy cooperatives Land O' Lakes Cooperative and Dairy Farmers of America Inc..

The afternoon finished with the business meeting and the election of officers.

In Secretary Hayes' talk to the group, consisting of representatives of many of Pennsylvania's and regional cooperatives with concerns from energy to dairy services to supplies, Hayes said that a

(Turn to Page A36)



Lancaster County Poultry Ambassador Sarah Woodling accepts a scholarship from George Georges on behalf of the Poultry Association, which held its annual banquet Tuesday evening. Photo by Lou Ann Good.