



Life Sci

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Penn State Dairymen's Club Celebrates 20th Anniversary

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STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — Prior to the Penn State Dairymen's Club 20th annual meeting held Friday, Nov. 6, at Celebration Hall in State College, some of its leaders and members expressed their gratitude for opportunities it has provided.

The sentiment expressed was one noting that while the club's history may not include events and incidents that would be of particular interest to a broad audience, the club has become a warm and wel-

come extended family of like-interested people.

They said they are glad that it is has reached its two-decade milestone and extended wishes for it to continue at least another 20 years.

The dairy science alumni club of the Penn State University College of Agricultural Sciences was founded in 1977 (first annual meeting in 1978) and serves as a consulting group to the College and as a medium for alumni and friends of the College to remain in contact with the College, each

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Jeff Hostetter, president of the Penn State Dairymen's Club, stands with some the registered and grade Holsteins that he and his father raise and milk at their North Annville Township farm in Lebanon County. Hostetter and others celebrated the organization's 20th anniversary this week. Photo by Vern Achenbach Jr.

Pa. State Grange Sets Policy, Elects Officers

MEADVILLE (Crawford Co.) — About 500 members of the Pennsylvania State Grange set new policy for the state rural and agricultural advocacy organization last week at its annual convention in Meadville.

In addition to setting policy, the organization elected new officers and heard from a number of speakers, including featured speaker

state Secretary of Agriculture Samuel E. Hayes Jr.

Among the issues on which Grange delegates decided its state policy were proposed state regulatory changes for farms considered concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs); the Food Quality Protection Act; farm vehicle registration plates; citizens volun-

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'Family' Extends Beyond Farm, Into The Workings Of A City

ANDY ANDREWS
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WYOMISSING (Berks Co.) — About a third of the 410 people assembled in the ballroom of the Sheraton Berkshire here Thursday night raised their hands when Ernest Heckman, president of the Berks Farm-City Council, asked how many farmers were in the room.

That many and more perhaps lived the truth when Paul Hoh, president of the Reading City Council, spoke directly of his experiences as the 15th Annual Farm-City Banquet exchangee.

Just like at city council, working

on a farm often means working across "other families, and other farmers" in the common goal of feeding the residents of the community.

And the city council, like the farmer, takes responsibilities for things that go right as well as wrong, according to the co-exchangee, John Hix, manager and

president of Skyline Acres, Inc., near Shartlesville in Upper Bern Township.

If the "micromanagement" of the city of Reading "slipped a beat on Sept. 12, I guess it was my fault," said Hix. "Because if it happened at home, it was my fault, too."

Hoh's visit to Skyline Acres left him deeply impressed with the modernization and overall "micromanagement" of a dairy. What impressed Hoh the most, he told those at the banquet Thursday night, was the "modern dairy farm with wonderful equipment — new equipment." That equipment includes a freestall barn, a hospital barn, and a double-12 parallel parlor.

Hoh took note of the fact that John's father, Ray, watches city council on cable TV. "It's nice to have a few fans, even in Upper Bern," said Hoh. But Hoh had a lot to learn about a modern dairy farm. "I learned that dairy farms were not like my uncle's farm in Quarryville, Lancaster County, with 35 cows." Cows these days have computer chips in their ears for identification and for feeding.

Hoh also learned how one person "can milk all 400 cows in several hours," he said. "That's incredible." He was also impressed with the automatic manure scraper which removes all the manure to a lagoon.

"Man, do we need something like that at City Hall," he quipped.

Not only was Hoh amazed by all the computers in use on farms, but he was also impressed with the fact

that, while cooling the milk, the heat from the body of a cow is recycled to actually heat the building. The heat transfer technology "was an amazing operation," Hoh said.

Hoh, who was born in Lancaster and graduated from the city's school system, received a bachelor's degree from Denison University in Ohio and master's of divinity from the Lutheran Seminary in Philadelphia. After graduation, Hoh became pastor of the Christ Lutheran Church in Glenside. In 1964, Hoh began his term as legislator in the state House of Representatives. After one term, he became executive director of the Reading Berks Humanity Council. In 1969 he joined the Pennsylvania Northeast Synod of the Lutheran Church as assistant to the president.

Hoh returned to Reading in 1975 and became pastor of St.

John's Lutheran Church. From 1992 until his retirement in 1997, he was vice president of the Tipton Lutheran Home. In 1995, Hoh served his first term as president of city council and is in his second term.

Hoh helped prep the cows at the Hix farm (using iodine and lanolin) and learned a lot about fly control and feeds. "It was a great dairy — it's a terrific operation," he said, encouraging others to visit.

Paul is married to Mary (Kate), and they have four children: Christopher, Robyn, Eric, and Scott, and four grandchildren.

John Hix noted that his farm in

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Lancaster Farming Now 43!

Forty-three years ago, *Lancaster Farming* began to appear in rural mailboxes in southeast Pennsylvania. That date was Nov. 4, 1955. Since then, on a weekly basis, *Lancaster Farming* has supplied farm news, market and production reports, regular columns, special features, and advertising to our growing number of loyal readers. Farmers and agri-industry representatives really depend on us for the farm news each week.



Renee Eckley, president of Limestone Springs Trout Farm in Richland, holds a large male rainbow trout. As reported last week, Aquaculture is now considered an agricultural enterprise in Pennsylvania. See part 2 of the Aquaculture story on page A22. Photo by Vern Achenbach Jr.