### Pa. State Grange

(Continued from Page A1)

teer monitoring; lawsuit abuse reform act; and funding for Johne's disease control and cradication and creation of a vaccination program.

"As a grass-roots organization, the policies determined here will influence our legislative efforts on Capitol Hill as we work on legsilation that will affect agriculture and rural Pennsylvania," said Brenda Shambaugh, State Grange legislative director.

"These issues are of greatest concern to our membership and the Pennsyvlania State Grange will see that these policies are addressed at the state federal level."

In his address to the State Grange, Agriculture Secretary Hayes said, "From agricultural research to cooperative extension and extending the over-order premium, the Grange has historically - and I'm proud to say this - played a proactive role in securing funding, and has been a voice for agriculture and rural

"We must continue to tell the good story of agriculture and its many accomplishments."

Hayes touched upon a number of issues of concern to Grange members in his talk.

"In the area of food safety,

(state) Department of Agriculture officials will have our people working in the field, productively, proactively and in a cooperative way, to ensure that Pennsylvania products remain the most healthy and wholesome."

Hayes said that, as an example of the actual care and concern that is a daily event around the state, out of the 180 million meals served to school students in 1997 there were no reported cases of contaminated food.

He also discussed farmland preservation efforts in Pennsylvania, noting that the state, its communities and landowners have been working together to save farmland for future generations at a greater rate than any other state in the nation, and recently celebrated the preservation of 1,000 farms under the program.

The state agriculture secretary said additional research and funding are needed to eradicate pseudorabies, and to suppress avian influenza.

The current state agriculture budget is the best he's been alive to have seen, he said.

He commended the Grange on its activity and leadership, and said that its role in agricultural and rural affairs has had a tremendous impact and will continue to into the next century.

Among the new policies, on the issue of CAFOs, the Pennsylvania

State Grange does not separate small farms from larger ones, and believes all farming activities should be within the scope of the laws and regulations governing their operations.

Moreover, all required permits relating to the size of the operation should be process in a timely

"any changes to the present CAFO regulations should be considered by the General Assembly and not done by policy of an agency," Shambaugh said. "The Grange also feels public hearing should not be necessary to meet permit requirements, and believes local municipalities should not deny local permits when state regulations are met."

Under the Food Quality Protection Act, the Grange does not approve the grouping of chemicals together for risk factor measurements.

Shambaugh said the Grange recommends that the Act contain four principles — sound science in protecting public health; transparency; a reasonable transition for agriculture; and consultation with the agricultural community, the general public and other agencies.

The Grange created policy to work with other farm organizations to clarify and update permissible and nonpermissible uses of farm vehicle registration plates.

The policy was created in response to demonstrated local discrepencies in interpretation, knowledge and practices in enforcing the law.

"It's important that the Grange and other organizations be a part of the equation as we seek to rectify the problems associated with this program," Shambaugh said. "We will work on behalf of the agricultural community to see that the law works the way it was intended to allow farmers to use their vehicles to conduct farm business as they transport commodities to and from the farm."

The state Department of Enviromental Protection has for some time enjoyed the volunteer efforts of state citizens who have an interest in monitoring some basic local water quality parameters.

The effort began years ago as there is a contigent of citizens interested in water quality and in being able to contribute to efforts to collect raw data.

The state DEP never had and does not now have the manpower or financial resources to be able to monitor water quality parameters across the state on an annual basis, much less on the daily basis that is scientifically required in order to determine probable causes of water quality characteristics.

For example, it only takes one day out of one year for a stream to experience high water temperatures in order to kill temperatureand oxygen-sensitive aquatic life.

While citizen volunteers generally don't do daily monitoring, the program at least allows for the collection of raw data by which the department can track trends and also be able to spot questionable data reports.

The Grange, an organization proud of its heritage of environmental stewardship, established policy calling for members to continue their efforts to educate other organizations and individuals to sustain valuable natural resources through programs such as Citizens Volunteer Monitoring.

On another issue, the Grange created policy at the convention to encourage members and their subordinate Granges to check with their local municipalities and join the Pennsylvania Civil Justice Coalition, an organization dedicated to the elimination of frivolous lawsuits and lawsuit abuse, in

# WE'RE #1 IN THE #2 BUSINESS

## Mid-Atlantic Agri Systems



The right combination for all of your liquid waste equipment needs. We offer unbeatable quality, the most complete line of equipment, service and installations, rental equipment and custom application. No matter the situation we can help solve your liquid waste problems. Call us today!

#### **USED/RENTAL LIQUID** MANURE EQUIPMENT

<u>Spreaders</u>

(2) 1998 3,850 gal. tanks, (1) with brakes & 23.1x26 tires, (1) w/o brakes, with 28Lx26

tires......\$14,300 ea (1) Houle 3,600 gal w/23.1x26 tires......**\$11,500** (1) Wic 2,900 gal. w/16.5x16.1.....\$4,950 (1) Wic 3,300 gal. w/21.5x16.1.....\$4,950 Balzer 3350 Vacuum......\$15,900 Calumet 3750 Top Fill......\$7,000

1998 Houle 32' multi-purpose lagoon pump...... CALL 3" transfer pumps, different lengths......CALL Houle 28" Maxi-Pump......CALL 1997 Houle 42' Lagoon SUPER PUMP, excellent for thick manure w/sand......\$6,500

Houle 42' and 32' Agi Pumps......CALL Houle 8' -12' Double Gearbox Pump on Trailer...\$4,000 Butler Lagoon Pump Working Condition......\$2,000 2 Cadman 3250 Hard Hose Reels......CALL Badger 8' Pump......\$2,000 OBO

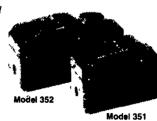
See Us For Your Alley Scraper Needs

### State of the art energy efficient waterers

- O Superbowl™, better by design,
- proven by years of performance O Patented closure system that counteracts the problems associated with cold weather conditions
- Full capacity can be consumed • For hot weather climates ask us about our Thermo-Lite™ product



**Top Volume** 



(3) Houle 5,250 gal. 1 w/steering, brakes & 28Lx26 tires

- (1) new unit (1) 1997 rental unit 🎉
- 1998 rental unit Either Rental Unit # **Your Choice** \$19.500

1992 Houle 4,250 gal. w/23.1x26 tires



\$10,500

# **Mid-Atlantic AgriSystems**

4019 Ashville Rd., Quarryville, Pa. 17566



800-222-2948 717-529-2782



"Simply stated, lawsuit abuse costs taxpayers millions of dollars annually," Shambaugh said. The time has come to bring to an end frivolous lawsuits that bog down the court system and waste money." As far as Johne's Disease, Grange delegates

approved two companion resolutions — one call for exploring various avenues for the possibility of creating a state-funded indemnity program for Johne's; the other calls for an even grater push for research to continue to make strides against the disease, with the goal of creating a vaccine and then implementing a vaccination

The Grange has been in the forefront of all Johne's Disease research in Pennsylvania for the last 15 years," Shambaugh said. "Now that research has progressed to the point where a vaccine may be developed in the near future, we designed policy that, if implemented by the state, will bring an end to this costly disease."

In its election of officers, William Steele of Freedom was re-elected master (president) for another two-years.

A 45-year member of the Grange, Steele is a lay minister at St. John's Lutheran Church and is associated with his brother in a crop farm operation.

Steele is also past president of the Beaver County Extension Association, and past chairman of the Youth Conference of the National Safety Council, and the Arlington, Virginia, County Fair, of which he was a co-founder.

Betsy Huber of Lincoln University, in Chester County, was re-elected overseer (vice president) for a two-year term. She is the first woman to fill

A 37-year member, Huber is past member of the Goshen Grange No.121, immediate past master of the Chester/Delaware Pomona No.3, and was with her husband Henry, the 1971 Yough Couple of the Year.

A legislative aid to state Rep. Art Hershey, Tuber has been involved in a and local organizations.

Also re-elected were Susan Tau of Hayfield Grange No.800 as lecturer; Floyd Buffington of Community Grange No.2048 as assistant steward; Mary Ann Vuckley of Lincoln Grange No.914 as lady assistant steward; Jean Hollabaugh of Waston Grange No.1068 as chaplain; ann Nause of Valley Grange No.1360 as state treasurer, and Sandy Witmer of Elizabethtown Grange No.2076 as secretary.

Newly elected were Dean Miller of Battlefield Grange No.2063 as steward; Robert Moore of Buffalo Grange No.1523 as gatekeeper; Linda Strong of Plumcreek Valley Grange No. 1702 as Ceres; Debra Campbell of Perry Valley No. 1804 as Pomona; Janet Fishovitz of Big Knob Grange No.2008 as Flora; and Stan Gruber of Stony Point Grange No.1694 as committee member.

The Pa. State Grange represents 30,000 rural Pennsylvanians. For more information, call (717) 234-5001.

Dealer