

# Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Elects Leaders

HERSHEY (Dauphin Co.) — The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau voting delegates re-elected Guy Donaldson of Adams County as its president Wednesday at the PFB annual convention at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey.

Donaldson, a Gettysburg area orchard and vegetable grower and direct marketer, has served as president since April 1996, and was vice president for the nine previous years.

In other election results, all eight PFB board members whose terms were to expire were re-elected to additional two-year terms of office.

Those eight were Clarence Berger of Kintnersville; Kent Shelhamer Jr of Berwick; Donn Fetterolf of Aaronsburg; Jane Balmer of

Mt. Joy; Wayne Freeman of Elliottsburg; Jerome Carl of Dysart; Harold Curtis of Columbus; and Richard Ebert of Blairsville.

Also during the convention, the voting delegates decided on state policy for a number of issues, ranging in topic from wine production to the horse racing industry.

Among action taken by the PFB voting delegates were policies calling for:

- the early adoption of hunting season dates and bag limits by the state Game Commission; a two-bird bag limit (currently one) during spring bearded turkey season; and reinstatement of bonus tag hunting for antlerless deer.
- levying impact fees on housing developers to help pay for additional schools, roads and other infrastructure needs.
- slot machines at race tracks.

• a US Department of Agriculture program to control and/or eradicate Johne's disease in cattle, and inclusion of the disease in the state idemnity programs.

• amendments to local tax laws to allow the collection of additional earned income taxes.

• research and development to help Pennsylvania's wine grape industry, and an amendment to existing law so Pennsylvania wineries can purchase up to 25 percent of their wine grape or juice needs from suppliers outside of the state.

• opposition to stream monitoring programs by citizens' groups or unqualified individuals.

• annual update training for school board members.

Delegates also reaffirmed support for Pennsylvania's Nutrient Management Law.

## DFA Wants Loss Payments

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The board of directors of Dairy Farmers of America (DFA) — at its November meeting passed a resolution urging that \$200 million in market loss payments — appropriated by Congress for dairy farmers — be paid as quickly as possible, and based on 1998 milk production.

In addition, DFA leaders recommended that payments should be used on a per hundredweight calculation derived on 12 months of production in 1998 and that there be no payment limitations.

DFA president and chief executive officer Gary Hanman said dairy farmers welcome the payments as a recognition that, while dairy prices are currently at adequate levels, farm prices earlier in the year were well below break-even points for

United States dairy producers.

"Dairy farmers have suffered for the last five years under the burden of high input costs and low prices for their milk," he said. "These payments represent a recognition that dairy farmers have been hurt by adverse weather conditions and the loss of international trade opportunities due to the Asian financial crisis."

Noting that DFA had actively supported passage of the \$200 million in market loss payments, Hanman said, "We've lost thousands of dairy farmers in the last five years because of depressed farm prices for milk. These payments will help active dairy farmers pay off debt and prepare for future financial challenges as government reduces its participation in dairy support programs."

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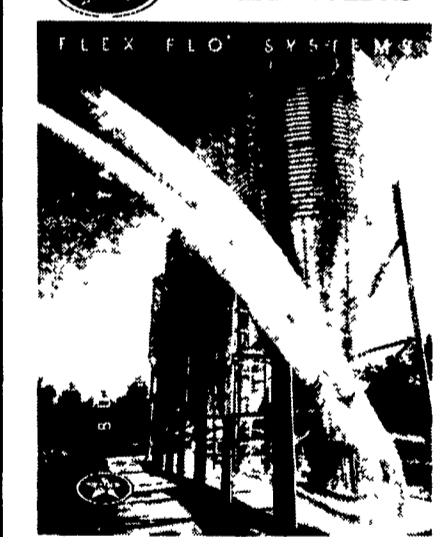
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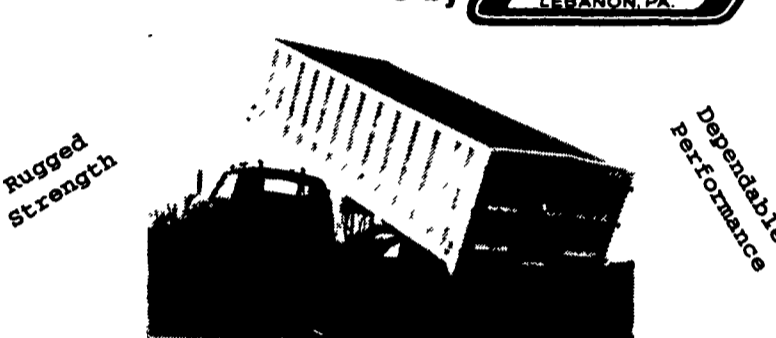
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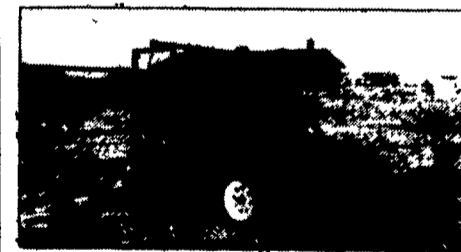
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