

Darvin Boyd, Eby Family Honored At Ag Industry Banquet

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First Union Bank's agri-finance department. The award is named to honor George C. Delp an industrialist who helped lead the New Holland Machine Company from its early beginnings. The award is given each year to a resident of Lancaster County who has made a significant personal contribution to the agriculture community.

For Boyd, the honor had special significance in that 36 years ago, Delp at the request of Max Smith, retired county agent, helped raise the money so Boyd could go to Korea on a National 4-H exchange program. With Delp in the audience, Boyd said he was humbled and honored to receive the award, especially in light of the influence as a mentor, Delp had on his life. "The honor is so great because of who you are,"

Boyd said. "I have always admired your character and vision."

Boyd also said the honor would spur him on to give even more back to agriculture and the community.

Another special honor went to Melvin and Joyce Eby, Gordonville, as the recipients of the 1998 Lancaster County Century Farm award. Their farm along Queen Road in Paradise Twp. has been in

the family since 1814. The Eby's introduced members of their family in the audience and spoke of their heritage found in the farming and religious history of their farm and family. "Our ancestors were real people," Melvin said. "They passed on to us values not just farming. They worked the land knowing God was the creator. They worshiped God."

Joyce told of her dependence

on the Lord and the challenge of living each day as though it is the best day of your life. "The challenges we face build character," Joyce said.

If all goes as planned, The eighth generation of the Eby family will be farming soon when their son Mike and his family take over the farm. "I am appreciative of the opportunity to farm I was given from the prior generations, and I would like to give the same opportunity to the next generation if that is possible," Melvin said.

Dean Kleckner, president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, was the keynote speaker. He said the economic gap is gone between farm and city. But a knowledge gap exists because most segments of society have no memories of the farm. Very few

issues are of interest to farmers alone.

Kleckner held a news conference at the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau offices in Camp Hill at noon and more of his thoughts on important national issues are reported as a sidebar to this report.

John Schwartz, Lancaster County agent, introduced the Eby Century Farm with a series of slides showing the historic barn and house. Schwartz said century farm families contribute much to Pennsylvania. He said one of the major strengths of Lancaster County agriculture is our multi-generational family farms.

Samuel Hayes Jr., Pennsylvania secretary of agriculture, presented the century farm awards from PDA and the Lancaster Chamber. He said century farm families represent the best in agriculture and provide the social ce-

ment that helps hold Pennsylvania together. They provide a rich tradition well-known in Lancaster County for having a value system and for their dedication to the welfare of Pennsylvania and America.

Jim Shirk, agriculture services manager, reviewed the year's activities that include educational efforts for both farmers and for non-farm citizens of the community. The ag committee also partnered with other organizations to help municipalities deal with the growing interdisposition of agriculture and urban settings.

Michael L. Brubaker, chairman of the Chamber's agriculture committee and Dave Keller, chairman of the Chamber's board of directors provided the welcome and greetings. Al Pell, the anchor of the nationally syndicated television program, AgDay, was master of ceremonies.

American Farm Bureau Federation Fights For Rights

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.

Lancaster Farming Staff

CAMP HILL (Cumberland

Co.) — Dean Kleckner, an Iowa farmer with 350 acres of cropland and a 100-sow farrow-to-finish operation that produces about 2,000 market hogs per year, wants Americans to understand one thing: farmers are not the enemy.

Kleckner has been president of the American Farm Bureau Federation for 12 years and, as such, has been involved in a number of political issues over the years, all involving agriculture or impacts upon agriculture.

On Tuesday, while in the area to serve as featured speaker for the evening Lancaster Chamber of Commerce Ag-Industry Banquet (a Farm-City observation), he stopped at the Camp Hill headquarters of AFBF-affiliate Pennsylvania Farm Bureau to meet with state leaders, and to entertain questions from state media.

After a brief introductory speech, Kleckner addressed the media's issues of concern; mostly hog farms and farmland preservation.

However, he was also able to talk about trade issues and the impacts of the Food Quality Protection Act and the regulatory direction the Environmental Protection Agency has attempted to take in implementing the law.

"I have crisscrossed the nation in the past few months and it's clear that farmers face the same issues, confront the same problems (and) conquer the same challenges," Kleckner said.

"Farm Bureau's top priority everywhere, it seems to me, is obtaining relief from sometimes needless, always burdensome, government regulations."

He said two current primary concerns both involve the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Specifically, he referred to the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), and the Clean Water Act (CWA).

The FQPA was created as a replacement for the defunct Delaney Clause, which set a "zero" tolerance for pesticide and other chemical residue testing in foods.

The outdated Delaney Clause failed because it was designed during a time when testing wasn't as sensitive to minute amounts of chemical residues. Chemical residues tested for are chemicals leftovers — or pieces — of pesti-

cides or other chemicals used in the production of food. (The presence of a chemical residue is an indicator that a more complex chemical was present.)

With dramatic improvements in the ability of testing procedures to detect the presence of chemical residues in more recent years, continued use of the Delaney Clause could have forbade the use of any farm chemicals.

In other words, under the less sensitive older testing methods, chemical residues wouldn't have been detected in foods, and would have been cleared under the Delaney Clause. Those same foods would be banned today, using the more sophisticated methods.

But the Delaney Clause didn't take into account that foods aren't naturally chemically pure.

As a reasonable alternative, the Food Quality Protection Act was passed with the understanding that acceptable testing limits on chemicals and/or chemical residues would be determined according to risk.

From an agricultural standpoint, the picture is clear — through the elimination of some chemicals over the years, through improved education about the handling and safety of chemicals, and because of the high cost of chemicals and low profitability of farming in the United States, farmers here are using many times less and fewer commercial chemical tools to farm than they did under the Delaney Clause.

The EPA however, has threatened to remove several families of chemicals from use by United States farmers, such as organophosphates, which would significantly reduce the quantity and quality of food produced.

The Farm Bureau and others object because of the impact it would have on production and competitiveness, but even more so, because it doesn't consider the EPA to have been objective in its perspective, and that it stands accused of ignoring acceptable scientific standards.

Vice President Al Gore ordered EPA to back off banning the family of pesticides this year, but that hasn't eliminated concern about the next action taken by the agency.

If organophosphates would be banned, the affect on production and competitiveness — the economic impact — brought on are

considered to be devastating, since there is no substitute available to farmers.

The Farm Bureau is not seeking to prevent unmanageable chemistry from being used, but it is seeking to prevent fear of chemistry and science (topics of which detailed knowledge is not commonly enjoyed by the general public) from being the overriding concern in establishing government regulation.

It has been hoped by many that risk-based analysis would be implemented in determining public policy.

Related to the issue is the fact that regulatory banning of pesticides in the United States — which does not protect its agricultural production as do other nations competing to sell commodities in the United States — would essentially force United States farmers out of business, and yet do nothing to actually reduce the use of agricultural chemicals from the food chain.

The EPA doesn't have control over agricultural practices in other nations.

According to Kleckner, it shouldn't.

While talking about the effects of the North American Free Trade Agreement (he said it is working, and has done good for agriculture with increasing exports, along with increasing imports, although there are some problems to be worked out), in terms of parity of environmental restrictions on production, Kleckner said the issue should remain out of negotiations for free trade between nations.

While the United States does have some of the most restrictive regulations on production in the world, there are a few other nations that have more strict restrictions on chemicals used in the production of certain commodities.

He said that attempting to set trade restrictions by proposing that the United States standard is the best and safest because it has the most restrictions on production is setting the agricultural and trade world up for creating unrealistic standards that mean nothing, but certainly pose a threat to the ability of the less fortunate to purchase food, and to reduce food's availability overall.

Domestically, Kleckner said it is his opinion that the EPA is determined to eliminate all agricultural chemicals and convert all United



From the left, AFBF President Dean Kleckner stands with Pa. Farm Bureau President Guy Donaldson in front of the PFB headquarters building in Camp Hill. Kleckner visited the PFB and met with media while in the area to speak at the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce Ag Industry Banquet about issues of concern to United States agriculture.

States agricultural production to "organic."

He noted that while there is a market for organic products, and some of the quality is good and the market has been growing for that niche, that type of production can't feed the current population of the United States, much less feed the world.

Kleckner said that he used to say that such agriculture couldn't feed a future population, but he was corrected by a fellow lowian who said that the future population of the world will be fed, it's just a matter of what 50 percent of the current population will survive or have children who survive to be fed if such policies are adopted.

For the EPA to determine how much risk a pesticide poses, the agency has to know how much is being used.

"But they don't ask farmers how much we apply," Kleckner said. "Instead, EPA bureaucrats extra-

polate a number by assuming that we use the maximum dosage permitted on every acre of a crop.

"No farmer does that," he said. "It's too expensive. It's unnecessary. We use pesticides safely to protect ourselves and our environment."

"EPA also says that agriculture is the major culprit in polluting our rivers and streams. In the next breath they issue more rules and regulations. The agency wants to treat animal waste like nuclear waste — seal it up somewhere and keep it out of the environment."

"Rather than finding new and more profitable ways to use animal waste, EPA wants it sealed off somewhere."

"The results of federal intrusion into agriculture are lower farm output, lower net incomes for farmers and higher food costs for consumers."

"These desk-bound elitists are (Turn to Page A31)