Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association Awards Banquet With Dairy Futures Conference

The Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association has planned its annual awards banquet to be held Thursday, December 17, 1998, 6 30 p m , at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, in State College, PA A reception will be held from 5.45 - 6 30 p m.

Historically held during the week of the Pennsylvania Farm Show, the awards banquet will be held in conjunction with the PA Dairy Futures Conference, sponsored by the PA Dairy Stakeholders The Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association has chosen this partnership to encourage its members and all Pennsylvania dairymen to lend their full support and endorsement to the Dairy Stakeholders mission

Since 1976, the Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association has annually awarded its Charles E Cowan Memorial Award to a Pennsylvania dairyman who demonstrates the ability to maintain a high level of production in his home operation, and who also shows leadership contributing to the improvement and promotion of the Pennsylvania dairy industry Other honorees to be named will be the recipients of the Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association's 1999 PA Distinguished Dairy Women and Extension Awards.

The evening program will include speaker, Dr David Hettinga, Vice President of Corporate Research, Land O'Lakes, Inc His speech is titled, "Non-Traditional Dairy Products."

The Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Dairymen's Association invites all dairymen and industry persons to join in the evening awards banquet and to also learn from the numerous speakers who will be addressing the PA Dairy Stakeholders Conference on December 17 and 18, 1998

To register for the full conference, including the awards banquet, contact Alan Bair, Director of Dairy Industry Relations, Pennsylvania State University, 717/948-6328.

PENNSYLVANIA DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET TICKET RESERVATION FORM

Thursday, December 17, 1998

Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, State College, PA
Milk punch reception 5 45 p m., Dinner 6 30 p.m.

Ticket orders must be received no later than Thursday, December 10, 1998.

Name/Organization_____

No of tickets _____ @ $18 = _____

Tickets may be reserved by contacting David R. Smith, PA Dairymen's Association, 440 Plaza Drive, Palmyra, PA 17078, 717/838-3283. Ticket price is $18 and reservations must be made by December 10, 1998.

Soil May Mitigate Global Warming

BALTIMORE, Md. – It is possible to moderate the effects of global warming by using plants to pull carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in the soil?

Scientists whose specialists include agronomy, soil science, biology, and environmental studies explored that questior in a one-day symposium on "Soi Carbon Sequestration" in Oct. a. the Baltimore Convention Center.

The topic is relatively new, according to Dr. Chuck Rice, professor of agronomy at Kansas State University, Manhattan, "There's still debate about how much carbon can be stored in soils."

In layman's terms, the group's discussions revolved around these principles;

•Increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide, a by-product of the burning of fossil fuel and deforestation, is causing an enhanced "greenhouse effect" around the planet earth—holding heat closer to the earth and causing temperatures to rise worldwide.

•Plants need carbon dioxide to survive, combining it with water and light to grown and produce their fruit. As part of the process,plants release oxygen into the air and carbon into the soil. As the plants die and decompose, they deposit more carbon.

•Soils have capability to store carbon—and, in cases of cropland, soils have actually been depleted through the farming process.

"The goal is to start fundamental discussions about the state of soil carbon science," Rice said. "Are there agricultural management techniques that increase the carbon retention? Are there natural ecosystems—such as forests and grasslands—that promote soil carbon?"

Rice cited the example of a native tallgrass prairie in Kansas where studies were conducted with higher levels of carbon dioxide over an eight-year period. Researchers found that large fibrous, short-lived root systems—such as prairie grasses—tend to deposit more carbon in the soil.

Certain soil textures, particularly those with more clay (typical of agricultural soils), are able to store greater amounts of carbon, according to Rice. He said climate also appears to be a factor with the more productive areas having greater potentia to store carbon.

Organic matter in soil is a key to maintaining productivity of cropland, Rice stated. "In the process of storing carbon in the soil, we might be able to do some things to actually increase the quality of soil and cropland."

The sessions included three major presentations, followed by "poster sessions" in which scientists described and discussed their research. The topics covered the processes of soil carbon transformation, effects of elevated carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and evaluations of soil carbon storage.