

Snyder Elected Beef Council Chairman

MIDDLETOWN (Dauphin Co.) — Dennis Snyder, a veal producer from Westfield, Pennsylvania, was elected chairman of the Pennsylvania Beef Council at their annual reorganization meeting. Snyder is the first veal producer to serve as chairman of the 21-member board of directors which oversees the beef checkoff program in Pennsylvania. The Potter County producer had previously served as vice chairman of the board. Snyder, and his wife Sharon, operate a 200 stall independent veal farm in Northern Pennsylvania. In addition to serving on the Beef Council

Board, Snyder also serves as treasurer of the American Veal Association.

Randall Meabon, a dairy farmer from Wattsburg, Pennsylvania, was elected as vice chairman. Meabon farms with his family in Erie County. Meabon had previously served as the Beef Council Treasurer, and also serves as a Dairy Farmer's of America Cooperative (DFA) director.

Jerome Carl, a beef producer from Dysert, Cambria County, was elected treasurer of the board while Alan Waybright, a Gettysburg, Adams County, dairy producer was elected secretary.

The Board also re-elected Dennis Snyder, veal representative; Norman Kolb, auction market representative; Randy Meabon, Western regional dairy producer; John Hess, Eastern regional beef producer; and Ray Grimes, Lowell Wilson and Paul Slayton, Pennsylvania Cattlemen's Association representatives, to the board. Newly elected directors to the board are Duane Hertzler, a dairy producer from Perry County; Bob Livingston, a beef producer from York County; Steve Bryce, a representative of Moyer Packing; and Kathy Allen, a beef producer from Butler County. Bill McCoy, past Beef Council chairman was elected as a director to the National Cattlemen's Beef Association Checkoff Board.

In addition to electing new directors and officers, the board approved a \$1.3 million budget to be invested on programs focusing around food safety and health, satisfying consumer expectations, ensuring producer profitability, adding value to the

chuck and the round, issues management, and increasing stakeholder value. Some specific programs include a school food safety campaign, a minor league baseball promotion, a beef quality assurance initiative, and new

beef and veal product rollout.

The Pennsylvania Beef Council is a producer-controlled and funded organization, which administers the \$1 per head beef checkoff program in Pennsylvania.

"Beef 2000" Scheduled

MIDDLETOWN (Dauphin Co.) — Cattlemen from all segments of the beef industry will have the opportunity to participate in a three-day course January 18 - 20, 1999 at Penn State University. BEEF 2000 is coordinated by the Pennsylvania Beef Council in cooperation with Penn State Department of Animal Science and PA Cattlemen's Association.

The program will provide producers with an opportunity to follow several head of finished beef cattle from the point of departure from the farm to the packing plant and finally to the consumer. Cattlemen will evaluate these cattle live, including ultrasound work and then observe the slaughter process in the packer's shoes, as well as grade and inspect the carcasses with a USDA inspector and grader. Producers will then fabricate the carcasses into wholesale and retail cuts, assessing a value to the product through each step.

This hands-on "ranch-to-rail" program is an outstanding opportunity to help cattlemen become more efficient in their business practices, while mingling with other cattlemen. The registration cost is \$40 per person for Pennsylvania producers and \$100 for out-of-state producers and agri-business persons, plus overnight accommodations. The Beef Council has tried diligently to keep the costs of this program down with the help of PA Cattlemen's Association and several animal health companies. Applications are available by contacting Tammy Weaver, Director of Industry Relations at the PA Beef Council, (717) 939-7000. Space is limited to the first 36 participants, which will be determined on a first-come, first-served basis. Deadline for reservations is December 31, 1998.

Ultrasound Making Waves in Pork Production

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ultrasound machines could benefit pork producers and packers by predicting fat-free lean pork content in live pigs and carcasses, said Ohio State University Extension swine genetics specialist Steve Moeller.

"Lean content in hogs is how the producer is paid today," Moeller said. "The amount of fat-free lean pork in a pig determines the price a producer receives at the market."

Using ultrasound to accurately measure fat-free lean content in live pigs would help producers decide what pigs to keep as breeding animals. Previously, fat-free lean content could only be determined by measuring the pig's carcass after it had been killed.

Packers could use ultrasound lean predictions to help determine the value of carcasses, so producers would be paid based on the weight and value of their product.

Moeller and researchers from Purdue University studied two types of ultrasound machines, A-mode and real-time, to see which one gave the most accurate predictions of fat-free lean content on live pigs and carcasses. Results of their work were presented by Ohio State

University graduate student Rebecca Emmett, July 28 at the American Society of Animal Science and American Dairy Science Association annual meeting in Denver, Colo.

"We found the real-time machine is a better predictor of lean content than the A-mode because it predicted more accurately and with less variation between the live pig and the carcass," Moeller said. "And, both machines were better at predicting fat-free lean on a live animal than on a carcass, which is good information for the industry to know."

While carcass measurement was shown to still give the best results, the real-time machine gave a good estimate, he said. Standard carcass testing measured fat-free lean content in pigs with 87 percent to 91 percent accuracy, while real-time was 86 percent accurate on live pigs and 85 percent accurate on carcasses. A-mode machines were only 68 percent accurate on live pigs and 60 percent on carcasses.

"The use of real-time ultrasound in a genetic selection program for lean content is very

good when used on live pigs," Moeller said. "This could allow producers to enhance the efficiency of lean production through ultrasonic evaluation in a selection program."

While less accurate, the benefits of an A-mode ultrasound are that it is more portable and much less expensive — \$2,000 versus \$12,000 — than a real-time machine.

"A large investment in advanced technology has been proven more accurate, but producers have to make a decision of what type of data they want and at what cost," he said. "And until recently, real-time machines were large and difficult to maneuver in swine facilities, but units now can be worn similar to a backpack and are easier to move."

For producers who think both machines are too expensive to buy, there are 25 certified ultrasound technicians in the United States who travel the country and can provide an ultrasound service at a relatively low cost of \$3 to \$5 per pig, Moeller said.

"The cost of the service is often based on the number of pigs measured

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Public Auction Register

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of each week's publication

Internet Sale Register will be updated every Sat. at 2:23 P.M.

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