

Historic Extremes

(Continued from Page A27)

applications to any nutrient in excess of anticipated crop needs, especially phosphorus.

The Dairy Network Partnership, a group of dairy producers and environmentalists seeking a solution to providing financial rewards for farmers who agree to place certain environmental considerations above those for business survival.

In May, the DNP announced Chesapeake Milk, a labeled product bottled by Sunnyside Farms in New York. It recently went onto grocer dairy cases in the region and a percent of the retail price, above the regular market value of the milk is returned to cooperating dairy producers.

The EPA has been busy raising the ire of agriculture locally and nationally, especially with its interpretation of the national Food

Quality Protection Act.

The FQPA was intended to replace the outdated and unfair Delaney Clause, a federal law that set zero tolerance for chemical residues in foods.

The FQPA was supposed to have been designed to provide a risk-cost assessment to determine acceptable residue levels.

New technologies of testing products have allowed for the sensitivity to detect miniscule levels of suspect residuals, which goes far beyond what is considered a level of concern.

However, in doing its reassessments, the EPA threatened to ban the organophosphate family of pesticides and offered no effective replacement.

The White House did stall the EPA's momentum, but agricultural leaders, such as Guy Donaldson,

elected president of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau this year, have been warning that the issue is not going to go away.

The state Department of Agriculture introduced a new program this year, borrowing from existing bond issue laws that provide a means for local economic development authorities to serve as a catalyst for what can effectively be low interest loans to help family farms remain in the family and be passed on to the next generation.

Hence, the name, "Next Generation Farmer Loan Program."

The agriculture department, in a continuing effort to promote exports and upgrade the image of Pennsylvania agriculture, unveiled a new logo during Penn State University's Ag Progress Days. It is "Products for the Planet."

The Pennsylvania Farm Show got a boost in international recognition this past year when it was

voted the top special event in the nation, a competition that compares major farm and agricultural and rodeo.

The Farm Show also got a new set of stalls and other improvements.

Another milestone was that the Legislature approved and the governor signed into law wording that acknowledges that aquaculture is finally agriculture in the state. It also makes it that the PDA is the overseeing organization, instead of a variety of environmental and business and agricultural bureaus and agencies.

There were also several anniversary milestones noted during the year: the Penn State Dairymen's Club celebrated its 20th year; the Pennsylvania All-American Dairy Show celebrated its 35th year; and the Keystone Stud Ram and Ewe Show and Sale was 50.

Other milestones of note: the Pennsylvania Farmland Preservation Program marked its 1,000th preserved farm and Lancaster Farmland Trust closed in on its goal of 100 farms preserved in 10 years.

Happy New Year!



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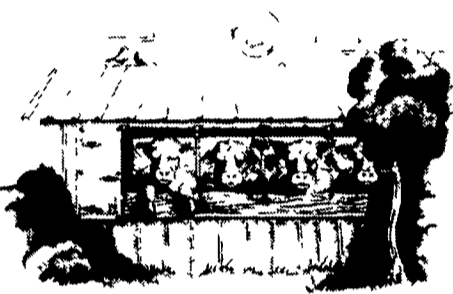
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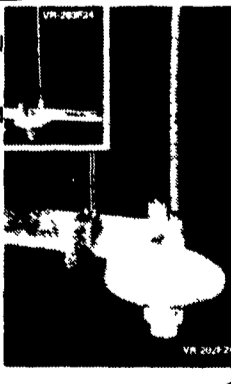
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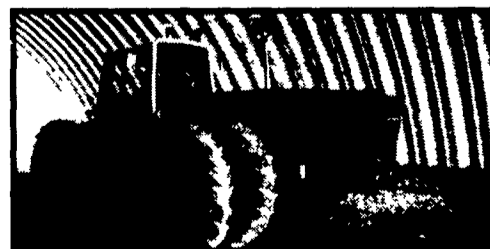
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