

Lancaster Farming

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830 Attend 8th PASA Conference

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — A record 830 people attended the 8th annual Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture conference on farming for the future in mid-February at the Penn State Hotel and Conference Center in State College.

The audience represented a diverse mix of those involved in agriculture, according to PASA officials.

"By far this was the best yet," said Tim Bowser, PASA executive director. "The quality of the farmer presentations, the number of people attending, and the energy that people brought with them. There was an amazing spirit of, 'Let's build a food system that works for farmers and consumers,' throughout the weekend."

Bowser said that keynote speaker, William McDonough, "... real-

ly ignited the crowd's sense of the possibilities. We were fortunate to have him at our conference."

McDonough stressed the impact today's activities will have on tomorrow's children as the essential consideration to give in making a decision about the nature of developing food systems, rather than relying on motivations based on a desire to garner as much personal wealth during the present.

According to Lauren Shorsher, PASA official, also well received was closing keynote speaker Ann Clark, a professor, parent, and grazing consultant, who discussed her ideas about the future of family farming.

Shorsher said Clark echoed McDonough's call for considering children and children of the future first.

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Commodity Pricing Hearing Raises Issues, No Answers

Part I

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — A hearing was held January in Harrisburg by the state Center for Rural Pennsylvania to

gather testimony as to the effects and causes of low commodity prices to farmers.

The Center for Rural Pennsylvania is an agency of the state General Assembly and is headed by a

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Eric and Ann Nordell receive the 1999 Sustainable Agriculture Leadership Award. Organic vegetable growers from Trout Run, they were recognized for their efforts to teach practices that can lead to proper soil maintenance and a self-sustaining farm.

Swine Moratorium Proposal Not Considered By NPPC

ANDY ANDREWS

Lancaster Farming Staff

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.)

— A modified proposal submitted by Brent Hershey, president of the Lancaster Pork Producers Council that requested the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) to ask its members to voluntarily delay construction of new sow farms for a period of one year, was not considered at the recent National Pork Forum held in Nashville, Tenn.

According to David Reinecker, Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council (PPPC) president, the resolution was not considered legal by NPPC. Essentially, no commodities organization, except for a registered cooperative, may conspire to control supply of a product, as defined by anti-trust legislation, particularly the Sherman Anti-Trust Law of 1890 and the Capper-Volstead Antitrust Law of 1922, according to Steve Meyer, NPPC's director of economics.

"The (U.S.) Justice Department watches trade associations closely," said Meyer. The proposal, in the form intended for the delegates at the national meeting last week, was a blatant violation of the anti-trust legislation, said Meyer.

Essentially, pork producer organizations "can do things like education," including studies on the results of overproduction, Meyer said. But they step over the line when they ask producers to act to control supply.

Hershey, president of Hershey Ag, Marietta, was the originator of the proposal. Hershey brought the first version of the proposal up for consideration by the PPPC at the council's board meeting in mid-February. The proposal passed by a very narrow margin, 10-9.

Despite the close vote and dissension among those who believe in keeping government out of producers' affairs, a modified resolu-

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Grower & Marketer Features Fruit Growers

In Section D this issue are *Grower & Marketer* pages devoted to the production of vegetables, fruits, the greenhouse industry, and small direct marketing enterprises. The pages focus on fruit growing, including an interview with James Lott, president of the State Horticulture Association of Pennsylvania. In addition, coverage of fruit and vegetable production from the Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Conference in January is provided, along with a calendar of coming events. The interview with Lott begins on Section D1.



More than 60 members of the Lancaster County Holstein Association toured three farms in Bradford County and Southern New York on Tuesday. All told, the Lancaster dairy farmers saw 135 cows classified excellent including Backacher Dreamer (2E-95), in the Lantland Farm herd at Horseheads, N.Y. In the photo, Ruth Lant (center) welcomes the Lancaster tour committee from left, Larry Kennel, Mark Welk, Dave Wenger, and Joe Wivell. See story page A24. Photo by Everett Newswanger, editor.



On Monday, state Farm Bureau leaders toured the Milton Hershey School, including the new horticultural center. Leaders included, from left, Britina Robinson, eastern region vice president; Lynn Smith, president; Jennifer Whitner, south central region vice president; Travis Donohue, state sentinel; Laurie Bish, state secretary; Herb Hofeditz, state vice president; Myron Cole, state reporter; Dan Kreider, state chaplain; Karen Reed, state treasurer; and Danielle Cowdon, state treasurer. See story page A22. Photo by Andy Andrews