

graduating from Penn State where he was an outstanding member of the Dairy Science Club, serving as president, he went to work for Atlantic Breeders' Cooperative as an evaluator of daughters of dairy sires. He is an outstanding judge of dairy cattle and placed classes at many 4-H, FFA, and open class county and regional shows.

Oliver returned to Penn State in 1989 as an instructor in dairy science. He advises the 4-H dairy program and oversees the Pennsylvania Junior Dairy Show program. At the All-American Dairy show 750 to 800 head are shown by 600 4-H and FFA youth. In addition, he teaches and advises students including the Penn State dairy judging team, and the Dairy Science Club. Judging teams individual students have excelled under his instructorship.

Oliver received the first

Outstanding Young Dairyman Award from the Penn State Dairy Science Club in 1984. In 1989 he was chosen as the Penn State Dairy Exposition dedicatee. He was named Advisor of the Year by the American Dairy Science Association Student Affiliate Division in 1994.

He spends much of his time recruiting, advising, and mentoring new and current Penn State students. Oliver is credited with working directly with "the most important crop of all—the young people who will be the dairy leaders of the future."

The winning 4-H state dairy judging team was honored with lifetime memberships in the association. The team members are Michelle McMichael, Lebanon County, Thomas Harwood, Cumberland County, Stacy Goetz, Franklin County, and Joshua Hushon, York County.



The honored 4-H dairy judging team members are, Thomas Harwood, Joshua Hushon, Stacy Goetz, and Michelle McMichael.

First Rebates To Drought-Stricken Hay Farmers

HARRISBURG — On behalf of Gov. Tom Ridge, Agriculture Secretary Samuel E. Hayes, Jr. announced this week that the first checks have been issued to drought-stricken farmers under the Governor's Hay Assistance Rebate Program.

"These checks, and the ones that soon will follow, represent the first drought-related cash assistance to reach Pennsylvania farmers," Secretary Hayes said.

Secretary Hayes presented checks to Francis R. Mains of Carlisle, Cumberland County,

\$5,325; Royston G. Coale III of Littlestown, Adams County, \$1,140; Wilfred Markey, Jr. of Dallastown, Dauphin County \$662.

To date, 82 checks totaling more than \$92,000 have been mailed to eligible farmers to partially reimburse them for the cost of purchasing hay to feed their livestock. These will be followed by rebates to nearly 4,000 eligible farmers, who have returned the required documentation such as receipts, to the Department of Agriculture, showing proof of purchase.

On Sept. 10, Gov. Ridge released \$5 million in emergency funds to provide direct relief for Pennsylvania's drought-stricken farmers.

Under the Hay Assistance Rebate Program, farmers are eligible to receive a \$60 rebate for each ton of hay purchased in state; a \$50 rebate for each ton of hay purchased out of state; and a \$25-per-ton rebate to help defray long-distance transportation costs. Hay purchased in Pennsylvania or in bordering states and Virginia is not eligible for long-haul transportation

assistance.

Gov. Ridge's plan also included more than 350 tons of hay donated by Wisconsin farmers and transported and distributed by the Agriculture Department to some of Pennsylvania's most profoundly stricken farmers.

To be eligible, livestock farmers had to certify at least a 30 percent crop loss.

On Monday, Gov. Ridge signed into law Senate Bill 1135

— the largest state aid package for drought-stricken farmers in the nation this year. The law makes available \$82.6 million in state funds: \$60 million in grants for eligible farmers; \$5.6 million to subsidize crop insurance costs for farmers; \$2 million to reimburse commercial orchard and fruit-tree nursery owners for losses from the Plum Pox Virus, and \$15 million for flood relief.



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