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Annual PASA Conference Attracts 1,000

GAIL STROCK
Mifflin Co. Correspondent
STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) The Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture (PASA) held its ninth annual Farming for the Future Conference February 4 and 5 at the Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center in State College.

The purpose of the conference is to educate, enlighten, and examine the revolutionary changes occurring in the food system worldwide while providing alternatives to creating a sustainable food system. The event drew nearly 1,000 participants and featured internationally renowned speakers such

as Dr. Vandana Shiva, director of the Research Foundation for Science, Technology, and Ecology, New Delhi, India, and Dr. John Todd, president and founder of Ocean Arks International, Burlington, Vermont. We pulled out all the stops to get our keynote speakers, explains Tim Bowser, program coordinator for the PASA Conference. And we tried to cover all kinds of topics for our workshops the farm crisis, prices, world trade, GMOs, and more.



Shiva is a world renowned advocate for farmers, the environment, women, and freedom. She figured prominently in the World Trade Organization talks in Seattle, giving ten lectures, workshops, and testimonies about World Trade Organization implications. In India she organizes sustainable farmer training cooperatives, oversees the creation of a seed banking network, and fights corporate acquisition of agricultural water rights. Shivas Research Foundation conducts independent research on ecological and social issues. She founded Navdanya, a national movement to protect the diversity and integrity of living resources, especially native seeds. Dr. Shivas awards
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The Snyders work together to closely monitor their dairy herd in Union County. Keeping a busy schedule with Joseph Sr. working on the farm, the Snyders maintain a somatic cell count of around 63,000 on their 63-cow dairy. Their excellent management practices have earned them numerous awards, including the National Dairy Quality Award. For more on Annette, Joseph Sr., Chris, and Joseph Jr., turn to page B14. Photo by Jayne Sebright

Roman Stoltzfoos, right, received the Sustainable Ag Leadership award at the PASA Conference. Making the presentation is Tim Bowser, PASA executive secretary.

State Budget Includes Increases For Animal Disease Prevention And Ag Promotion

JAYNE SEBRIGHT
Lancaster Farming Staff
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Last Tuesday Governor Tom Ridge proposed a \$19.7 billion general fund budget, which included the biggest tax cut ever, along with increased investments in education and technology.

come from cigarette-tax revenue and other sources to enable the state to preserve 12,000 additional acres. That's 22,000 acres in total. The other \$105 million in the "Growing Greener" fund will be divided three ways. \$50.5 million will go to the Department of

Environmental Protection for watershed protection and restoration projects. \$32.5 million will go to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to make repairs and provide grants to communities. 32 million will go to the Pa. Infrastructure Investment Authority

(PENNVEST) for water and sewer projects. "During last summer's agricultural committee hearings, we heard a clear message of the desire for Farmland Preservation to continue and even be expanded," said Representative Raymond Bunt, Jr., chairman of

the agricultural and rural affairs committee for the House of Representatives. "Through the Growing Greener initiative, this budget provides for that." Hayes also noted that in addition to the "Growing Greener" budget, an additional \$190,000
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In the agricultural arena, the budget includes support for farmland preservation, animal health-related issues, and agricultural research. An increase of \$179,000 is devoted to promote agricultural products both at home and around the world.

"Governor Ridge has recommended another great budget for Pennsylvania agriculture," said Secretary Samuel Hayes, Jr.

In his budget, Ridge included a commitment of \$20 million a year to the Farmland Preservation Program. The \$20 million is part of \$135 million devoted to implement the second year of Pennsylvania's "Growing Greener" environmental effort to help communities better control land use.

The \$20 million will be utilized by Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) to preserve about 82 farms or 10,000 acres of farmland.

In addition to the \$20 million is about \$25 million that will



This year's Sire Power scholarship winners included (seated from left): Jennifer Dotterer, Melissa Werley, Stacey Dietrich, Olivia Courtney, Emily Bryant; (standing from left): Kirk Sattazahn, Sire Power director of marketing, membership area; Mark Hazelton, Kevin Harvatine, Darren Martin, Amanda Shahan, and Marsha Bosch. Winners not pictured include Amy Iager, Heather Oberholtzer, and Janice Youse. See story on page A32.

Six Master Farmers Named

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.)-Early next month, the Mid-Atlantic Master Farmer Award will be bestowed on six farmers from three states at the 66th annual Master Farmer awards luncheon. The awards will be given March 6, at the Harrisburg Marriott.

Past Master Farmers and ag leaders from across Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and West Virginia will honor this year's recipients.

They are: Susan M. Blew of Pittstown, N.J.; Duane and June Hertzler of Loysville; Robert H. Jackson of Brownsville; Lewis R. Riley of Parsonsburg, Md.; and James Witter of Shippenburg. The six Master Farm-

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