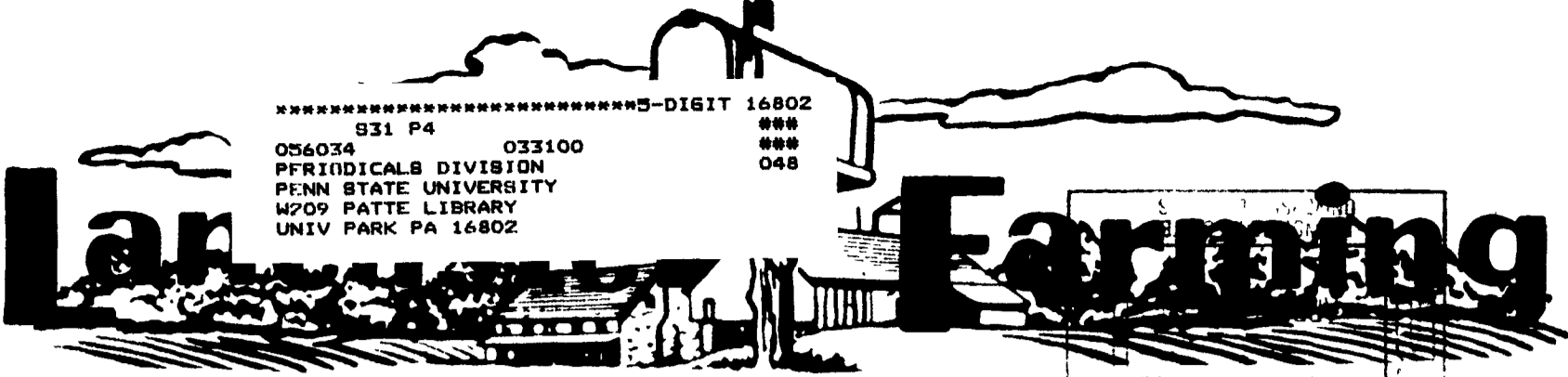


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101 Farms In 100 Days Preserved In Pennsylvania, Meets Gov. Ridge Timetable

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Editor
HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) - "Momentous meeting!" "Milestone."
Thus Samuel Hayes Jr., Pennsylvania's secretary of agriculture, described the preservation of more than 100 farms in 100 days before Earth Day next Saturday. Gov. Tom Ridge announced the "Growing Greener" program at the Pennsylvania Farm Show in January. The reached goal came on Thursday at the regular meeting of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Land Preservation Board held in the PDA building. Here 34 farms were approved to raises the total to 101 farms preserved in the designated time period. "I am pleased with the hard work and dedication of the

members of the state agricultural land preservation board and the county farmland preservation boards throughout the state who worked hand-in-hand with our state's farm community to reach our goal," Hayes said. "Since January, we have invested nearly \$23 million to help preserve these farms from the development that endangers our agricultural economy and encroaches on the quality of life of these and future generations of farm families."
At the farm show, Gov. Ridge called the loss of open space and farmland Pennsylvania's biggest environmental challenge in the new century. "As Pennsylvanians, we are proud to be part of our nation's breadbasket," Gov. Ridge said.

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Jeff and Lisa Bender, Norlina, N.C., were named Maryland and Virginia Milk Cooperative's 2000 Outstanding Young Cooperators. Together, with the help of their son, Jacob, they milk 245 cows and manage 400 acres of crops. The Benders were recognized at the cooperative's annual meeting in March. Turn to page A34 for the story.

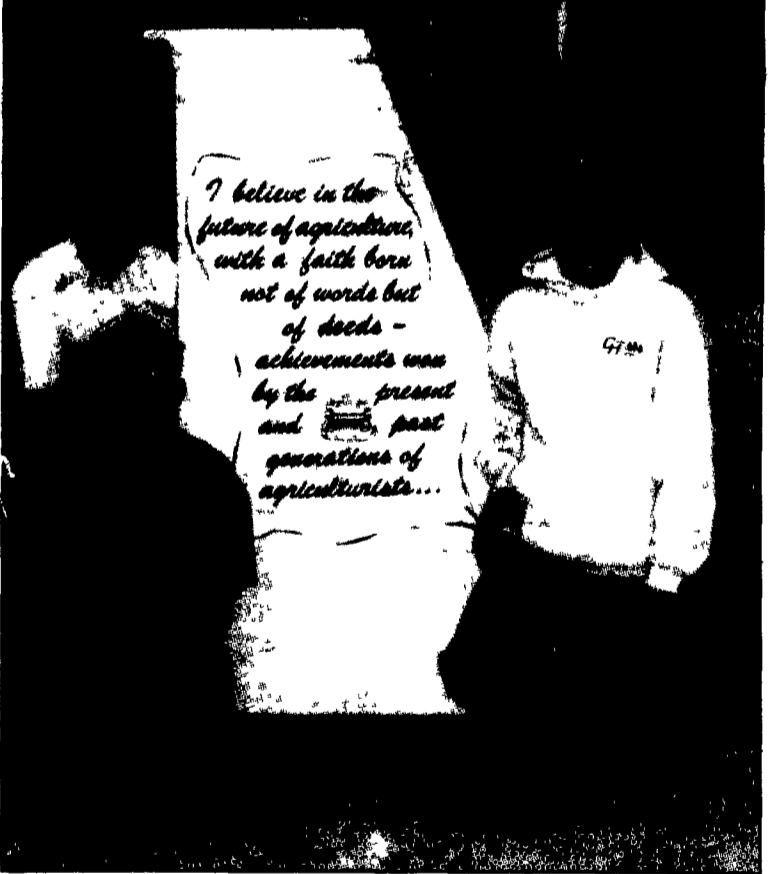
Joint Venture's Ultimate Goal Is To Lower Costs To DHIA Members

JAYNE SEBRIGHT
Lancaster Farming Staff
STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — The Pennsylvania Dairy Herd Improvement Association (PA DHIA) and Dairy One based in New York have joined together to improve milk production record management in other countries while improving profits for local DHIA members. The joint venture involves creating an international service company called Ag Star Technologies, focused on delivering American-style dairy herd management systems around the globe. The company will be owned 50/50 by the two organizations. "Most of the current milk record management programs internationally are administered on huge, high-cost mainframe computers," said David Slusser, Pennsylvania DHIA general manager. "Through AgStar, we can provide these foreign countries with PC-based software, which is a lot more cost effective than the traditional programs running on mainframe computers." AgStar is marketing the dairy herd record processing software currently used by the Pennsylvania DHIA and Dairy One to these other countries. Along

these other countries. Along with the processing software, the company will provide on-farm dairy herd management software and seminars on how to manage the software. "What we're offering to these countries is very similar to what we're doing locally with our management software and George Cudoc's seminars," said Slusser. According to Pennsylvania DHIA President Norm Hershey, AgStar presents an enormous opportunity for the Northeast dairy industry to provide information services and technologies to agriculture's global marketplace. "By joining forces with Dairy

One, we can bring the expertise and resources of both organizations together to create an industry-leading service provider around the world," said Hershey. AgStar has already negotiated projects in Poland, Latvia (one of the Baltic states), and Canada. The company is also exploring opportunities with other countries in Europe and South America. The Poland project has started, with around 40 herds signed up on a test pilot. Based on the test pilot, AgStar is hoping to win the bid to process all of Poland's milk records for their 370,000 cows. To create a

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Showing livestock is going to be a lot more fun for these 4-H'ers, from left, Chad Menges, Matt Bankert, and Cory Thompson. They are among the guests who gathered at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the York 4-H Center's livestock exhibition facility. The \$286,000 building was funded largely by volunteer labor and donations of materials and cash. See page B16 for the story and photos by Joyce Bupp.

Penn State Council Visits Ag High School In Philadelphia

EVERETT NEWSWANGER
Editor
PHILADELPHIA-Heralded as "a truly enlightening and informative session," the Penn State Ag Council held its regular bi-annual meeting at the W. B. Saul High School in the city of Philadelphia last week. The

meeting is most often held in State College. But for this meeting, the attraction at Saul was the uniqueness of the vocational ag science school within the city limits and a part of the Philadelphia city public school system. To educate city youth in the ways of agriculture they milk 21

cows, have an equine program, a meat processing plant, swine and sheep herds, a turf grass program, a horticulture department that includes a greenhouse and floral design program, a poultry flock, and a farm mechanics program. Every one of

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The Maryland Brown Swiss Bell Ringers are showcased in this week's Lancaster Farming. In addition to being the Maryland senior 2-year-old winner, Dublin-Hills KM Mitsy, owned by Aimee Smith of Woodsboro, is a national bell ringer. For more bell ringers, turn to page A22.

Conference Highlights In Next Foraging Around

Next week Lancaster Farming is publishing the spring issue of Foraging Around, the newsletter of the Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council (PFGC). The issue will include highlights of the annual PFGC conference and other grazier news.