

Keystone Farm Credit Elects Officers

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Lancaster Farming Staff

NEW HOLLAND (Lancaster Co.) — Member-stockholders of Keystone Farm Credit voted for several new directors at a series of meetings in New Holland and Fogelsville this week.

In addition, members of the banking cooperative also voted on a proposed merger (see accompanying story) to create a consolidated cooperative called MidAtlantic Farm Credit.

Results of the elections are:

• Region 1, position 1, for Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties: Kenneth L. Schlegel, Fleetwood. Schlegel is the own-

er/operator of Ker-Min Farms, a 340-acre dairy. He milks 90 cows. Schlegel serves on the Kutztown Fair board as livestock director and the Richmond Township Planning Commission. He belongs to the local, state, and national Holstein associations, DHIA, Agway, St. Paul's Lutheran Church and Sunday School, and the Fleetwood Grange, where he is Master. Schlegel serves as a member of the AgFirst Farm Credit Bank's District Advisory Committee and Legislative Advisory Committee and is a member of Keystone's Audit and Review Committee. Previously he served as chair and vice

chair of the Baltimore Farm Credit District Advisory and Legislative Board, president of the Fleetwood School Board, president of Berks County and southeast extension boards, president of Berks county DHIA, and president of St. Paul's Church Council.

• Region 1, position 2: Kenneth L. Stutzman, Kutztown. Stutzman ran a dairy farm until 1983. He crop farms with his son, Jon. They grow corn, hay, soybeans, and wheat. Stutzman is a dealer for Vigortone Ag Products and Doebler's Seed. He is a member of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and Oley Mennonite church and serves as a dele-

gate for the Atlantic Coast Conference of the Mennonite church. He served on Keystone Farm Credit's nominating committee, was secretary for the Sunday school, was church council member, chair of the Mutual Aid Committee, and trustee and usher for Oley Mennonite.

• Region 2, position 1 (Berks, Carbon, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Monroe, Northampton, Pike, and Schuylkill counties): Paul L. Kreider, Palmyra. Kreider has been farming in partnership with his brother for 31 years. Paul farms 650 acres of corn, soybeans, wheat, and hay. Kreider is involved part-time in the dairy operation and belongs to the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, Agway, and the Fellowship of Christian Farmers. He serves on the missions committee and the elder board of the Lebanon Valley Bible Church. Kreider serves as chair of Keystone's Audit and Review Committee and is a member of Keystone's marketing and finance committees.

• Region 2, position 2: Kenneth S. Meck, Willow Street. Meck has been farming for 38

years. His operation consists of steers, hogs, and pullets. Meck belongs to the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, Refton Brethren-in-Christ Church, National Corn Growers Association, and the poultry association. He is president of the Lampeter-Strasburg School District and treasurer of the West Lampeter Fair, in addition to vice chair of Keystone's board of directors.

Meck also serves on the Lancaster County Conservation District board. Previously he served as chair of the Lancaster Extension Service board, chair of the Strasburg Township Planning Committee, and president of the Lampeter Fair. He is a former director of the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce board. Meck is Keystone's alternate delegate on the AgFirst Farm Credit District Advisory Committee and legislative advisory committee and is on Keystone's audit and review committee, marketing committee, and finance committee.

Nominating committee members were also elected. They included region 1, position 1, Stephen R. Burkholder and position 2, David L. Mast. For region 2, stockholders elected Dean L. Groff.

Farm Credit Members

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paid in two ways: 30 percent in check and 70 percent is held by the association for operations. The patronage distribution allows the association to reduce cost of borrowing by 20 percent.

Inspirational speaker David Okerlund from Manchester, Ohio, noted that humor can be used to adapt to changing and challenging times.

Okerlund noted that we live in a world of taller buildings and shorter tempers, bigger houses and smaller families, more knowledge and poorer judgment, higher income and lesser morals, and these are taking their toll on our psyche.

"We can cross the globe on the Internet but can't talk to our children across the kitchen table," he said.

In these changing times,

people have overlooked the fundamentals of dealing with each other and learning the coping skills of rapidly changing times.

Okerlund said he is actually paid money by companies to reintroduce humor to the workplace.

By being too caught up in the world, we are "losing the gifts the Great Lord gave you to survive," he said, and that includes faith in the business of farming and in each other.

He told members to "dance with life and be resilient." Okerlund said the five most important minutes of a day are the first five minutes when you wake up in the morning. "How many of you wake up and take charge of the first five minutes of your lives every day?" Okerlund said.

He said he vows to thank the

Lord every day and to be an inspiration to others.

"I'm not going to let a day go by without touching someone's life," he said. We should continue to reward others with hanks and to learn how to "pat each other on the back." Having the right attitude is key and learning life is not an easy road gives us perspective.

Okerlund remembers hearing tales of the Great Depression. He related the story of a farmer who died and had a note in his pocket. On the note, the farmer wrote how much he actually enjoyed the Depression because he had more fun than in his entire life. The farmer learned how to live and "have real friends and eat real food, and get more exercise," said Okerlund, while dropping all the nonessential worries about life.

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