

Sen. McGee Heads Efforts To Fight Timber Theft

GLENMONT, N.Y.—New York Farm Bureau, an organization with more than 30,000 member families, applauds the efforts of the Legislative Commission on Rural Resources and the Senate Agriculture Committee for their attention to this matter," said Hooker. "New York farmers own and control large tracts of timberland. In order to protect the environment and our member families' investments and security, increased enforcement and penalties for trespass and timber theft is needed."

Lead by Rural Resources Commission Chair, Pat McGee (R-Olean) and Senate Agriculture Committee Chair, Nancy Lorraine Hoffmann (R-Syracuse), a joint hearing was held earlier in February to examine this threat to rural life in New York state.

New York Farm Bureau Director of Governmental Relations Patrick Hooker provided testimony at the hearings.

"On behalf of our members, I

commend the New York State Legislative Commission on Rural Resources and the Senate Agriculture Committee for their attention to this matter," said Hooker. "New York farmers own and control large tracts of timberland. In order to protect the environment and our member families' investments and security, increased enforcement and penalties for trespass and timber theft is needed."

Farmers have been the target of timber theft in a variety of ways. First, knowingly or not, a logger can easily trespass and remove unauthorized timber without significant penalties. Second, a logger can provide payment to a farmer that may be well below market price, due in part to the farmer's lack of

knowledge of the industry.

"We have been working with several forestry related organizations on this issue, and feel that hearings such as this and an open dialogue is the first step in adequately controlling timber theft in New York State," said Hooker. "We have also made efforts to help farmers realize that their forestland should be properly managed and maintained, especially since commodity prices are stagnant or dropping."

The Senate will be conducting two more hearings on timber theft, in addition to the recent hearing in Albany. The additional hearings will be April 5 in Syracuse (4:30 p.m.-8 p.m.) and May 4 in Jamestown (4:30 p.m.-8 p.m.).

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From the Department of Dairy and Animal Science

This regular column from Penn State's Department of Dairy and Animal Science features the research findings, student opportunities, and reports on other important topics generated in the Department. The back issues of the column are archived on Lancaster Farming's Internet www.lancasterfarming.com home page. Look for them.

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With the world becoming smaller, more students are doing internships outside the United States. Recently, two students, Mark Mosemann and Amy Packard, spent a summer at the Northern Ireland Agriculture Research Institute. Their internship was primarily with dairy cattle research, but the foreign experience provided them the opportunity to learn another culture and about living in another country. One of our goals is to enhance these types of experiences.

EXTERNSHIPS: A few years ago, we implemented a one-week externship program called Partnerships with Agribusiness. This program is directed toward first or second year students, whereas the internship program

focuses on students who have completed two or three years of college. The externship provides a "shadowing experience" where a student spends one week with a company or business learning about this particular business as a possible future career. This "new" program has 30 students, and has often led to future internship opportunities.

Business, companies, or organizations interested in partnering with the internship and/or externship programs, please respond to Dr. Erskine H. Cash, Department of Dairy & Animal Science, 324 William L. Henning Bldg., University Park, PA 16802; phone (814) 863-3662; Fax: (814) 863-6042; Email (ecash@das.psu.edu).



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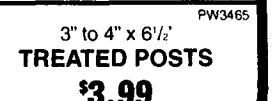
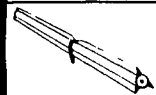
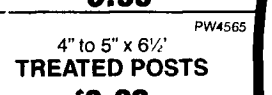
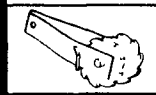
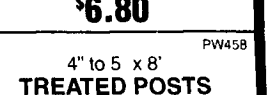

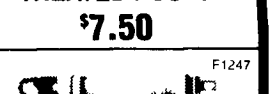
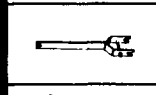


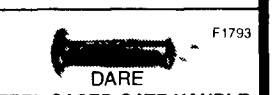

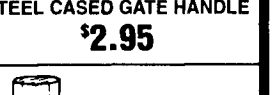
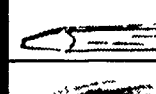





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