

Oak Ridge Boys To Highlight Poultry Council's Biggest Fundraiser

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Lancaster Farming Staff

HERSHEY (Dauphin Co.) — PennAg Poultry Council's biggest fundraiser, the Millennium Spring Banquet, is scheduled Monday here at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center.

Oak Ridge Boys take center stage at 7 p.m., after a social and dinner. The social features lots of different poultry products, followed by dinner and entertainment.

The banquet is the largest fundraiser of the year for the

council, part of PennAg Industries Association, Harrisburg, noted James A. Shirk, assistant vice president of the PennAg Industries Association.

The banquet represents "well over half of the Poultry Council's budget," Shirk said.

As of Tuesday this week, 1,200 poultry producers and agri-industry representatives were registered for the banquet. Some tickets, at \$100 per guest, are available, noted Shirk.

Shirk will be in PennAg's new office, off Linglestown Road (Rt. 39) northeast of Harrisburg,

Sunday afternoon. Individual tickets ordered Sunday can be picked up at the banquet door. For tickets, call Shirk at (717) 651-5920, ext. 225.

The banquet will take place in the Great American Hall at the newly renovated Hershey Lodge and Convention Center.

The banquet features chicken breast and fresh vegetables. Dessert is Hershey chocolate pie.

Before the entertainment, Bill Robinson — president of Kreamer Feeds, Kreamer, and chairman of the Poultry Council — will speak about the year for producers.

Introducing the Oak Ridge Boys will be Dandelion, local radio disc jockey and Radio DJ Hall of Fame member.

The Oak Ridge Boys follows the country music theme popular to the fundraiser. The group has three decades of chart-topping hits, million-selling albums, an endless highway of personal appearances, and a permanent place in the pantheon of country music.

In a letter to poultry supporters of March 24, Shirk wrote that "strong advocacy for the poultry industry and its suppliers has never been more important. Associations provide valuable industry coordination and are our first line of defense against an onslaught of regulations and critics. But they can only operate effectively with your support."

Proceeds from the fundraising dinner will be used to protect the interests of the Pennsylvania poultry industry and its suppliers. Shirk wrote, "The support will also strengthen our



The Oak Ridge Boys will entertain guests of the Millennium Spring Banquet at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center. From left, William, Joe, Richard, and Duane.

alliance and structure with PennAg Industries, the leading voice and watchdog for agribusiness in Pennsylvania."

The money raised contributes to many different programs, according to Shirk, including egg programs, educational programs for all poultry producers, operating expenses, and others.

A highlight of the programs includes working to make the Pennsylvania Egg Quality Assurance Program, or PEQAP, a

national program, adopting it for other states. The national initiative is up for comment.

Environmental recognition labeling under ISO-14000 for poultry is under review. This type of labeling will help educate the consumer about the industry's role in ensuring environmental quality protection.

For more information about PennAg, contact Shirk at (717) 651-5920, ext. 225.

Land Preservation Meeting May 17

PLEASANT GAP (Centre Co.) — An important meeting to discuss agricultural land preservation and control of urban sprawl has been planned May 17 at the Logan Grange Hall, Pleasant Gap.

Urban Sprawl and Farmland Preservation for Pennsylvania and Centre County will begin at 1:30 p.m. and conclude about 4 p.m.

The featured speakers for this meeting are from the organization called 1000 Friends of Iowa. Ed Fallon, state representative, and LaVon Griffieon will present information about the disappearance of prime farm-

land to urban sprawl. They will also discuss state and local solutions to land-use challenges.

Janet Lussenhop, executive director, 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania, will discuss activities of the organization and land-use challenges in Pennsylvania.

Norman Lathbury, agricultural land preservation coordinator for Centre County, will discuss the ag land preservation program in Centre County.

For more information about the afternoon or evening meeting, contact Bill Stringer at (814) 383-4438 or Terry Maddox at (814) 355-4897.

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