

Brosius Selected 2000 Penn State Distinguished Alumnus

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Charles C. Brosius, a leading figure in the U.S. mushroom industry and former Pennsylvania secretary of agriculture, has been named a 2000 Penn State Distinguished Alumnus, the university's highest alumni award.

"Charlie has been a dominant force in the Pennsylvania food and fiber systems," said Robert Steele, dean of Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences. "We in the college are delighted for him to receive this much-

deserved recognition."

Brosius, a native of West Grove, Pa., has achieved an international reputation as an innovator in mushroom cultivation and marketing. The Brosius family business, Marlboro Mushrooms (from which he retired as president in 1995), led the state industry in adapting and developing production techniques to meet the growing fresh-market demand in the 1960s. His lecturing, sponsored research, and published papers continue to establish him as a national authority in mushroom

production. He was recently appointed to serve on the National Mushroom Council by the USDA.

He served as Pennsylvania secretary of agriculture from March 1995 through May 1997. As secretary, he chaired the commissions that oversee animal health, soil conservation, the state Farm Show, horse racing and farmland preservation, as well as many other boards. He was instrumental in the formation of the Penn State Agricultural Law Center, a partnership between the College of Agricultural Sciences and the Dickinson School of Law.

After graduating from Penn State in 1952 with a bachelor's degree in dairy science, Brosius managed the family's dairy and mushroom farm, overseeing its transition to mushroom production. He developed strategies for

servicing the New York City fresh markets, with emphasis on Asian produce buyers. The firm subsequently expanded, acquiring a distribution/trucking concern and real estate holding company.

As a member of the Penn State Board of Trustees from 1989 through 1997, Brosius chaired the Hershey Medical Center Advisory Committee. He served on the board of directors of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry and was vice-chairman of the board of directors of Agway Inc. farm supply cooperative. He is also a former director of Telmark Inc., an agricultural leasing and financing company. From 1989 until 1995, he was a director and finance chairman for Curtice Burns Foods Inc., a national food processing and marketing corporation.

In 1978, he was recognized as a Pennsylvania Master Farmer and has been honored with the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Distinguished Service to Agricul-

ture Award, the Chester County Commissioners' Agricultural Leadership Award, and the American Mushroom Institute Distinguished Service Award. He also has received distinguished alumnus awards from the College of Agricultural Sciences and Alpha Kappa Gamma.

Brosius sits on the Penn State Great Valley Advisory Board and chairs the Penn State Great Valley Grand Destiny Campaign. He is a member of the national Alpha Zeta and Gamma Sigma Delta agricultural fraternities and the Penn State Coaly Honor Society.

Now retired, Brosius lives in West Grove with his wife, Jane, a 1952 Penn State graduate. Their sons, all involved in the family business, also are Penn State alumni: Mahlon (1978, agricultural business management); Thomas (1979, agricultural engineering); and Harold (1980, agricultural engineering).

ASA Pleased With High Level Of Support For Soybean Checkoff

SAINT LOUIS, Mo.—The American Soybean Association (ASA) has learned the USDA has determined that a referendum will not be necessary on the Soybean Research and Promotion Program.

The request for referendum process indicates that the vast majority of U.S. soybean producers support their checkoff.

Out of 600,813 qualified stakeholders, only 17,970 valid requests, less than three percent of the total, were received, far less than the threshold of 60,082 that would have triggered a referendum.

"USDA's request for referendum process validates what ASA producer-leaders have long believed, that is that most soybean producers feel their checkoff is doing a pretty good job for them," said ASA President Marc Curtis, who led ASA's advocacy efforts to promote the positive benefits of the checkoff prior to and during the Oct. 20, 1999, through Nov. 16, 1999, request for referendum period. "ASA has found that producer support for the soybean checkoff increases in direct proportion to a producer's knowledge of checkoff-funded activities and how these programs directly benefit soybean producers."

Producers certifying that they

produced soybeans at any time during a period beginning Jan. 1, 1997, and ending Nov. 16, 1999, were eligible to participate in the petition for a referendum. An eligible producer as defined by the USDA, was any person engaged in the growing of soybeans in the U.S. who owned or shared ownership and risk of loss of such soybeans. Eligible individuals not wanting a referendum did not need to take any action.

"ASA will continue its efforts to communicate the benefits of the soybean checkoff to all soybean producers and we can reach out to those 17,970 people who did feel that a referendum should be called," Curtis said. "I'd be willing to take a look at their concerns and welcome an opportunity to tell them why I think the soybean checkoff is a tremendous asset that is building demand for our products."

State soybean checkoffs were originally developed in 1968. In 1989, ASA's voting delegates adopted a resolution calling for passage of a national soybean checkoff in the 1990 Farm Bill. ASA worked directly with Congress to develop the format and structure of today's soybean checkoff program that has helped improve soybean industry profitability and is responsive to soybean farmers' needs.

No Wool Sale, Pool

TUNKHANNOCK (Wyo-ming Co.)—The Northeast Pennsylvania Sheep and Wool Growers Association regrettably announces that there will not be a wool sale and pool for their producers' year 2000 clip.

Economic reality has dictated this decision based on four months of market research and bid solicitation. The currently accessible market leaves no margin to cover the cost of production and handling.

A complex set of circumstances has generated an abnormal market climate. Marketing channels are glutted with cheap wool from low labor cost and government subsidized foreign sources.

Domestic demand for fine woolen fabrics has declined under pressure from synthetics, and has been further eroded by a "dressing down" trend in contemporary American culture. There is some evidence that the

surplus is beginning to work its way through the market.

Although a slow process, social trends are constantly changing. There will be an "up" side in this cycle.

The Northeast Pennsylvania Sheep and Wool Growers Association is a constituent member of the Pennsylvania Sheep and Wool Growers Association and the American Sheep Industry Association. This relationship affords access to state and national resources.

In an attempt to keep the lines of communication open, anyone desiring more information can contact George Hayes, Box 1080, Friendsville, PA 18818, 570-553-2853, the association's president, or Victor Decker, 1119 Sugar Hollow Road, Tunkhannock, PA 18657, 570-833-2486, the association's secretary. A report of association activity is also on file in county extension offices.

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Hyster H60C forklift, gas eng, air tires, 3,300 hrs, exc cond. \$5,500. 570-752-7131.

Cat forklift V60B dsl, hydro, side shift, 5,000 lb cap, good shape, \$4,000. 570-689-9790.

Woods 750 3pth backhoe, approx 60 hrs use \$4,400. Landpride 60" field mower, \$450. Deutz Allis (green) 54" commercial mower, hydro drive o" turn radius, \$900. All reasonable offers considered. 717-432-1118.

783 NH skid loader, 2500 hrs, 1994, w/11' backhoe, \$15,500. 717-442-9559 eves

1840 Case skid loader, 2 bkts, 750 hrs, great shape. 610-926-6737 eves

1987 Case 8500 Dozer Exc Cond., Call 302-832-8220

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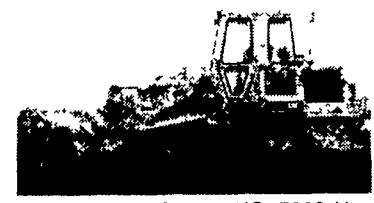
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