

State Farm Leader Calls On Congress To Vote In Favor Of China Trade

CAMP HILL (Cumberland Co.)—Pennsylvania Farm Bureau (PFB) President Guy Donaldson, Orrtanna, went to Washington, D.C. recently to urge the House of Representatives to vote in favor of permanent normal trade relations with China. By all accounts, the vote in the House, scheduled for the week of May 22, will be extremely close.

"The vote for permanent normal trade relations is about trade, pure and simple. Some critics of the agreement want to fold China's record on human rights and labor issues into the discussion. What the debate boils down to is ensuring that when China becomes a World Trade Organization member, U.S. farmers are able to secure their place in a market that could be worth more than \$3 billion within one year of China's accession to the 136-member or-

ganization," said Donaldson.

If the vote for permanent normal trade relations passes, there are benefits for many of Pennsylvania's agriculture commodities. The beef industry projects that income growth and a rising demand from China's urban centers will significantly increase the demand for beef.

China consumes far more pork than any other country, so the pork industry expects increased demand for their products. The poultry industry will continue to benefit from trade with China, which already is the second leading market for poultry product exports. There will be no quantity limits for these products. China has agreed to accept all beef and pork from the U.S. that is certified wholesome by USDA.

Additionally, the dairy industry and the grain industry will reap benefits if the trade agree-

ment is signed.

While in Washington, Donaldson, along with PFB's dairy specialist Joel Rotz, will be meeting with the Pennsylvania delegation of legislators to discuss the benefits of the permanent normal trade status.

"If Congress does not grant permanent normal trade relations to China, the relationship with our fourth largest trading partner could be in serious jeopardy. As a World Trade Organization member, China would look to the European Union and other foreign outlets, instead of the U.S. for farm products to fill their pantries and supermarket shelves," Donaldson said.

Improved trade relations with China will mean more than just economic benefits for the U.S. Having China in the WTO will further the rule of law within the country and compel China to follow the rules established by the WTO countries, including the U.S. For the Chinese people, this agreement will certainly lead to increased economic and political freedoms. Trade liberalization is more than money and markets. It encourages an exchange of ideas and standards that can lead to more rewarding civic institutions and rewarded citizens.

Program Launched To Support Equine Program At Delaware Valley College

DOYLESTOWN (Bucks Co.) — Expanding on the college's philosophy of providing the finest possible practical education, the equine program at Delaware Valley College announced the creation of "Friends of Equine," a group that will help identify sources of financial support to the college's growing Equestrian Center.

"The Delaware Valley College Equestrian Center plays an important part of the academic program at Delaware Valley College," said Karin Glassman, director of equine science.

"Unlike most traditional educational units, the Delaware Valley College Equine Science program must maintain an unusual operating budget," Glassman said. "As a tuition-driven private institution, funding capital projects is a challenge. Additional sources of financial support are essential to underwrite the extraordinary costs involved with improving and maintaining the facility."

Maintaining an exemplary equestrian center is vital not only to the continued success of the equine science program, but also to the regional equestrian community, Glassman said. The equestrian center hosts shows, clinics, demonstrations, and seminars open to the public.

"Most importantly, by creat-

ing a more competitive, vibrant, updated facility, the college will be better prepared to meet the needs of future generations of young equestrians," she said.

The extensive on-campus training facility includes the equestrian center, a beautiful 84 x 280 foot indoor arena with elevated viewing area and attached stabling for 48 horses, a 120 x 90 foot outdoor jumping arena, a round pen, separate hay barn, and paddocks for ample turnout. Surrounding the equestrian center are acres of pastures, farmland, and cross-country trails.

The equine science program emphasizes hands-on practical application of the skills expected by employers in the equine industry. Students take part in equestrian center operations, acquiring basic skills in horse care and stable management. The DelVal Equestrian Center is recognized by the British Horse Society as an Official Approved Riding Establishment.

Individuals may contribute to Friends of Equine through many levels of giving. In the Adopt-A-Horse program, one can participate in the "Hall of Fame," "Saddle Up Club," or "Stable Companions." Through the exhibitor program, one can contribute at the First Year Green, Second Year Green, Grand Prix, or Gold Medalist levels.

House Ag Committee Wraps Up Field Hearings

PEORIA, Ill.—This week, the House Agriculture Committee, led by Chairman Larry Combest (R-TX), completed the final two farm policy field hearings in a series of 10.

With the two most recent hearings in Boise, Idaho and Peoria, Illinois, the Agriculture Committee has visited every region in the U.S. and heard the views of 181 producers who testified before the panels.

"During this series, we've heard from hundreds of producers from all over America. With so many different experiences and differing perspectives, we

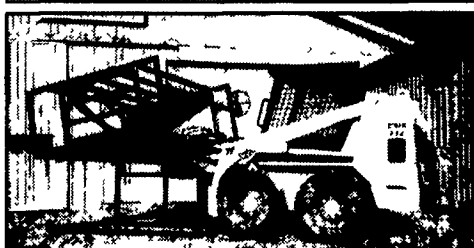
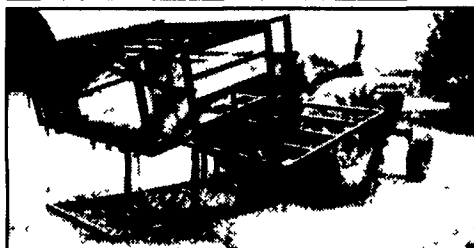
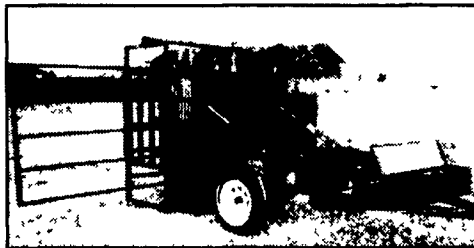
didn't find a clear consensus on how we should change federal farm policy," said Combest. "Still, I believe that American producers know we're listening to them and that we have their confidence in pursuing policies meant to ensure their future prosperity."

While there was disagreement among producers regarding a number of policy issues, witnesses did consistently cite the increased cost of regulations, unfair foreign trade practices, and low prices as some of the obstacles American farmers and ranchers need to overcome.

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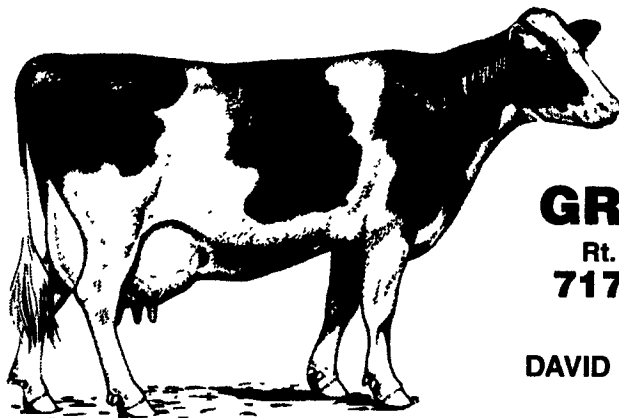
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