

Good Weather And Crops Give Optimism To Ag Progress Days

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Bair also urged farmers to look at their enterprises as a business as well as a way of life. "Use your position (in your community) to positive advantage," he said.

"Ag sometimes gets bad press but it offers good food and fiber at a good price to the public. We need to remind our urban neighbors of the advantage we provide to them. Producing food on less acres with technology has given more acres to open space and the natural wildlife environment."

Bair said just a two percent growth in the Pennsylvania dairy industry creates 570 new jobs. A lot of the wealth of the nation is dependent on agriculture.

At the Government/Industry Day luncheon on Wednesday, Lt. Gov. Mark Schweiker said that what agriculture represents is remarkable. "Pennsylvania agriculture is so strong and optimistic it is known around the world," he said. "Pennsylvania agriculture has a marvelous reputation for productivity around the world. In many parts of the world they lose half of what they produce in the transportation system. Ag progress is not only about exhibits, food, and fellowship. It is crystal clear this State has what it takes to stay on the leading of technology."

Orion Samuelson, syndicated National Farm Report and U.S. Farm Report columnist and TV reporter, was the guest speaker. He said we know how to produce.



The Dairy of Distinction winners gathered on the barn hill at Ag Progress Days for this photograph. The annual awards ceremony at the event traditionally ends with a group photo. Photo by Everett Newswanger, editor

duce. Now we need to know how to market.

"We produce enough in this country that we need to sell half of it outside the country," he said.

With a milk toast to the crowd that filled the special events building, Samuelson said (tongue in cheek) "Milk was the only drink decent enough to turn sour when it is no longer fit to drink."

On the subject of the farm advantage in this country, he said "No matter how hard it gets, you don't want to trade places

with farmers in any other country."

Samuelson has traveled internationally and has received the National 4-H Alumni Award, and the Honorary FFA American Farmer Degree.

Officials were calling the crowds that came to Ag Progress this week the largest in memory.



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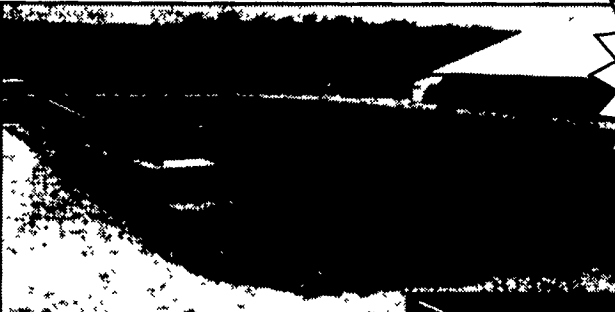




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