

## Ridge Administration Observes

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Agriculture Secretary Samuel E. Hayes Jr. recently joined representatives of state and community-based food-assistance agencies to observe World Food Day at the Capitol.

"Today we pledge our continued efforts to ensure that all Pennsylvanians have access to food," Hayes said. "We urge all Pennsylvanians to help eliminate hunger and malnutrition."

This year's theme is "A New Century Without Hunger."

Hayes noted that Pennsylvania is a national leader in providing emergency food assistance to needy Pennsylvanians. In 2000-2001, the Agriculture Department provided \$16 million in cash grants to counties to purchase and distribute food through the State Food Purchase Program.

Hayes recognized individuals from food-assistance agencies across Pennsylvania who have volunteered their time to work in food banks, soup kitchens, and other programs to help those in need. They include:

- Adams County: George and Dottie Colman, Gettysburg Food Pantry, Gettysburg.
- Allegheny County: William G. Nichols, Whitehall Church of Christ Food Pantry, Pittsburgh.
- Berks County: Betty Quire, Greater Berks Food Bank, Reading.

- Blair County: Frank Thompson, The Salvation Army, Altoona.

- Bucks County: Martha Miller, No Longer Bound, Bristol.

- Butler County: Cindy Gilch, The Lighthouse Foundation, Butler.

- Carbon County: Isabel Zickler, Shepherd House, Lehigh-ton.

- Chester County: Elmer Duckinfield, The Gleaning Program of Chester County, West Chester; and Patricia Sobocki, The Lord's Pantry, Downingtown.

- Elk County: Lenora T. Hepner, Christian Food Bank, St. Marys.

Hayes also presented awards to student winners of a state-wide poster contest who submitted posters under the theme "A New Century Without Hunger."

The first-place winner in the elementary-school category was Luke Fetkovich, a sixth-grader at Greensburg Salem Middle School in Greensburg, Westmoreland County. Kristi McManus, a seventh-grader at Greensburg Middle School, Greensburg, Westmoreland County, was named as the winner in the junior high-school division. The high-school division winner was Marisa Hermanovich, a senior at Stroudsburg High School,

Stroudsburg, Monroe County.

First-place winners each receive a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond donated by the Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association for their efforts.

Hayes also presented honorable mention awards to the following students:

Grade School

Honorable Mention

- Nick Ciccone, St. Mary's Visitation School, Grade 6, Dickson City, Lackawanna County.

- Kendra Srebro, St. Mary's Visitation School, Grade 6, Dickson City, Lackawanna County.

- Amanda Krawczyk, St. Mary's Visitation School, Grade 6, Dickson City, Lackawanna County.

- Eliza Hall, Montgomery Elementary School, Grade 4, Lycoming County.

Junior High School

Honorable Mention

- Miranda Miller, Keith Jr. High School, Grade 9, Altoona, Blair County.

- Josh Tezak, Prince of Peace School, Grade 8, Steelton, Dauphin County.

- Jennifer Scott, Apollo-Ridge Middle School, Grade 7, Spring Church, Armstrong County.

- Brittany Sleasman, Berlin Brothersvalley High School, Grade 9, Berlin, Somerset County.

## 'World Food Day'

High School

Honorable Mention

- Ryan Plucienski, Glen Mills Schools, Grade 11, Concordville, Delaware County.

- Mike Meyers, Exeter Township Senior High School, Grade 12, Reading, Berks County.

- Austin Wells, Antietam

Middle/Senior High School, Grade 12, Reading, Berks County.

- Brian Hannon, Philadelphia High School for Creative and Performing Arts, Grade 12, Philadelphia.

## Leuenberger Joins Council

MIDDLETOWN (Dauphin Co.) — Paula K. Leuenberger, MS, RD, has joined the organization as Director of Nutrition and Health at the Pennsylvania Beef Council.

Illinois born and Ohio raised, Leuenberger graduated from Penn State with a bachelor of science degree in biological health/nutrition and Case Western Reserve University with a masters of science in public health nutrition, in addition to a dietetic internship. Because of her marriage, Leuenberger moved to Switzerland, where she attended the University of Bern for German/Swiss German proficiency. She subsequently obtained positions at the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research and later the Institute for Social and Preventive Medicine, Uni-

versity of Zurich.

Trading Swiss chocolate for Hershey chocolate, Leuenberger returned to Pennsylvania where she enjoyed a half-time faculty position at the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, Penn State, as a member of an osteoporosis research team in the Division of Orthopedic Surgery.

Most recently, while raising three daughters, Leuenberger has continued to work part-time as a consultant for Cooperative Extension and industry; as an undergraduate instructor for Penn State; and as a German instructor. Leuenberger is a 4-H leader, a member of the Lebanon County 4-H Board of Directors, and is active in the community.

At the Pa. Beef Council, Paula will connect with both health professional and consumers.

## Board Mandates An Increase

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board Chairwoman Beverly R. Minor recently announced that the board members voted unanimously to add 20 cents to the current over-order premium of \$1.25, which includes the fuel adjustment of \$.25 per one hundred pounds of milk.

The over-order premium is paid on Class I (bottled) milk produced, processed, and sold within the state. The additional \$.20 will be in effect for the months of November and December 2000.

Beginning Nov. 1, 2000, the total over-order premium placed on Class I milk that is produced, processed, and sold in Pennsylvania will be \$1.45. This action is the result of an emergency hearing of the board held Oct. 4, 2000.

The hearing was held in response to a petition submitted to the board by Dairylea Cooperative Inc. and Dairy Farmers of America North East Council.

The board based its decision on testimony presented at the hearing showing that the additional \$.20 for November and December responds appropriately to the cost-price squeeze resulting from higher production costs and lower milk prices to Pennsylvania dairy farmers.

Representatives from the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and the Pennsylvania Milk Dealer's Association voiced their organizations support for the \$.20 increase.

The over-order premium is a dollar amount added to the minimum Class I price to be paid to Pennsylvania dairy farmers that is announced by the Federal Government and the Milk Marketing Board monthly. Pennsylvania has mandated an over-order premium on Class I milk produced, processed, and sold in Pennsylvania since 1988. Though September 2000, the premium has generated an additional \$213,472,000 to Pennsylvania dairy farmers.

## USDA To Change Absentee Ballot Procedures

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Kathleen Merrigan, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, recently announced that USDA will amend the final rule on the conduct of the pork checkoff program referendum.

An interim final rule will clarify requirements for counting absentee ballots and establish an additional five business days for challenging absentee votes.

In-person voting took place Sept. 19-21 at Farm Service Agency (FSA) county offices. Absentee voting was conducted Aug. 18-Sept. 21. "These changes will ensure that everybody has an equal opportunity to challenge absentee voters and that all eligible absentee votes will be counted," said Merrigan.

The final rule required absentee ballots to be received by FSA county offices before a producer's vote could be challenged.

Persons voting by absentee ballot were required to print their name and address on the outside of the mailing envelope so that FSA county offices could check whether the absentee ballot had been returned.

Because of incorrect completion or missing names and addresses on some envelopes, FSA county offices were not able to determine the name of the person returning the absentee ballot. The office was then unable to post a complete list of absentee voters for public review and challenging.

As a result, AMS is amending the final referendum rule to clarify that if a producer failed to print his or her name and address correctly on the official "Pork Referendum" envelope (LS-73-1), it will not automatically invalidate the ballot. The amendment will allow for an ad-

ditional five business days for interested parties to review the absentee voter request list posted in FSA county offices and challenge producers who requested absentee ballots. Absentee voters whose ballots are challenged will be given five business days after notification of a challenge to submit proof of eligibility.

"The ballot-counting process will still begin on Nov. 29," said Enrique Figueroa, deputy under secretary for USDA's Marketing and Regulatory Programs. "We do not anticipate that the final interim rule will change the date when ballots will be counted." Final results are anticipated for announcement by the end of December.

Producers who owned and sold one or more pigs or hogs from Aug. 18, 1999-Aug. 17, 2000 were eligible to vote.

## Helicopters To Land On Ohio Herdland

BARNESVILLE, Ohio — Helicopters will be spotted from different points in southeastern Ohio headed toward Dickinson Cattle Company north of Barnesville in Belmont County.

Helicopters will land in the area of Texas Longhorn cattle herds on the Dickinson property. This will not be a medical emergency, a drug search, livestock mutilation or unidentified flying objects from another planet, even though numerous landings will be during late night hours.

The West Virginia Army National Guard Company C 2nd Bn 104th Aviation, under the direction of Harold F. Nicely (CW4), will be training aviators primarily to provide transport of men, supplies, and reconnaissance to the 28th Infantry Division Mechanized. The unit is made up of 36 aviators with 17 aircraft, 11 UH-1 Huey utility, and 6 OH-58 scout reconnais-

sance helicopters.

National Guard Aviators must train to the same standards as active duty counterparts and conduct 96 flight hours of training annually per crew. This involves flight with low level terrain of Pinnacle and Ridgeline operations. The reclaim land at Dickinson Cattle Company is perfect for this training. Flights will be conducted during both day and night and include the use of night vision goggles, which is the most demanding mode of flight training. Operations will originate at the Ohio County Airport.

Test landings and flyovers have been conducted during September to evaluate livestock reactions. Helicopter close proximity lands are not a normal protocol for cow herds. Chief Nicely and Aviator Lt. Matt Hasslock found the Texas Longhorn cattle at Dickinson Cattle Company to be quite cu-

rious and relaxed during the numerous test runs.

Dickinson Cattle Company, owned by the Dickinson family of Barnesville, is well-known for championship Texas Longhorn and BueLingo registered cattle. Ranch manager Joel Dickinson said, "We are quite willing to allow the property to be used for military training. It is the least we can do to assist our nation in local and global emergency readiness." The recent test landings were just a precautionary experiment to check the Longhorn's reactions before full blown training schedules began.

The Dickinson property in Kirkwood Township was selected by military authorities as an ideal location with its rough but open landscape. Chief Nicely has been hunting such an area and is also pleased with the air time distance. He said, "There is no such property in the Wheeling area and flight

travel time of 30 minutes or less is suitable to allow us enough time on station to conduct our training needs without refueling. The large acreage allows sufficient maneuver room for climbs and turns without over

flight of inhabited residences, which could cause disturbance of people living there. In any area we train, there is a possible noise problem so this type of remote area is very helpful to our long range success."



The West Virginia Army National Guard is making test training landings on Dickinson Cattle Company north of Barnesville, Ohio. This is the beginning of a major helicopter aviator's training program, which will be held for years to come.