



State Farm Bureau Celebrates 50th With Founder's Call To Order

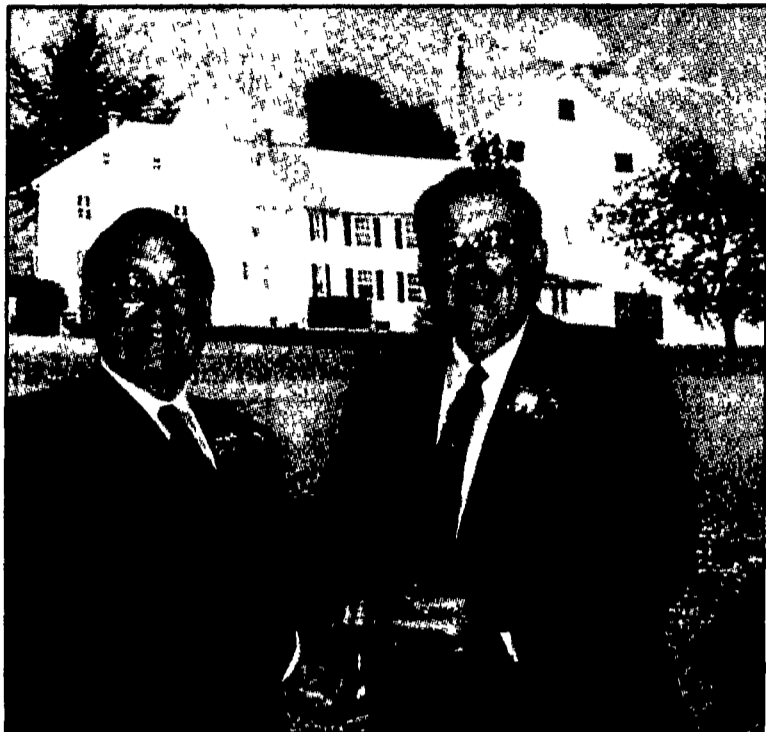
MICHELLE RANCK
Lancaster Farming Staff
HERSHEY (Lancaster Co.) — The Pennsylvania Farm Bureau recently reminisced over the past several decades during a 50th anniversary conference and banquet at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center. Clay Shaw, 83, York, called the start-up meeting of the Farm Bureau, then the Pennsylvania

Farmer's Association, to order on November 24, 1950. That meeting was attended by 32 farmers representing eight counties at the Brunswick hotel in Lancaster.

Fifty years later Shaw was honored to call the banquet and subsequent meeting to order. This time approximately 1,100 people attended. Shaw, who served on the farm bureau board

for two years, presided over the first two organizational meetings years ago. He is the only living member of the original "founding fathers."

The events of the conference focused on acknowledging the foresight of the founders in addition to acknowledging the subsequent efforts of the thousands who have also served in the or-
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A former president of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and current state senator, Noah Wenger, left, received the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award. The award was presented by Farm Bureau President Guy Donaldson at the 50th anniversary conference and banquet at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center. Photo by Michelle Ranck

Dairy Conference Reviews Importance Of Forage Quality, New NRC Book

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GRANTVILLE (Dauphin Co.) — Dairy producers who rely a lot on forages should keep in mind that, in general, low-quality forages in the animal's diet will send energy values "substantially lower," according to an Ohio State dairy nutrition specialist.

And cows on pasture need more energy than cows on drylot, said Bill Weiss, Ohio State University professor of dairy science.

Weiss provided details regarding latest nutritional recommendations to more than 200 dairy feed specialists Tuesday. It was the start of a two-day Penn State-sponsored Dairy Cattle Nutrition Workshop at the Grantville Holiday Inn.

Overall, pastures provide a substantial source of Vitamin E, essential to boosting a rumi-

nant's immune response and helping to keep diseases such as mastitis at bay.

"If you don't put up high-quality forage, it could cost you big bucks," said Terry Etherton, distinguished professor of animal nutrition and department head, Penn State Dairy and Animal Science.

Most experts agree that the cow's nutritional needs, along with providing a healthy environment, can go a long way in improving milk production.

Weiss, along with several Penn State dairy nutrition specialists, provided information on an update of the National Research Council (NRC) "Nutrient Requirements of Dairy Cattle" guide, a seventh edition and revision of the 1989 book.

The book is used widely to calculate nutritional needs of the dairy animal.

Much of the book includes im-

portant revisions, reviewed by several speakers at the conference.

For forage producers, a key finding of the revision committee was that "not all midbloom alfalfa is the same," Weiss noted. And feed by-products

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Lancaster Farmland Trust Announces Senior Advisory Council, Launches Harvest Appeal

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Dr. John Schwartz, chairman, Lancaster Farmland Trust Board of Trustees, this week announced the launch of the trust's 2000-2001 Harvest Appeal to save Lancaster County farms.

He also released the names of

nine well-known community leaders who will serve on the Trust's newly formed senior advisory council. Those members, in turn, serve as honorary co-chairmen of the Harvest Appeal.

The senior advisory council will function in an advisory capacity to the Board of Trustees and to the staff in matters of development, program planning, and community relations. The nine members are:

- Darwin Boyd, farmland preservation pioneer and agriculture leader.

- H. Eugene Garber, retired major league baseball player, preserved farm owner, and former supervisor of West Donegal Township.

- Robert Hershock, retired 3M executive, entrepreneur, and owner of preserved farm.

- Dorothy Lyet, farmland preservation pioneer and recognized leader in Lancaster County Arts and Education.

- Carolyn S. Nunan, leader and benefactor in numerous

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Genetic Foods Debate At Chester Extension Meet

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WEST CHESTER (Chester Co.) — Those who attended the Chester County extension meeting had the opportunity to not only hear about county activities but also hear a debate about the controversial topic of genetic engineering.

Conducted at the Italian Social Club in West Chester, the meeting included an introduction of Chester County extension staff and an update on the county's 4-H center.

The evening's debate, with more than 80 in attendance, featured Paul Backman, director, Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station at Penn State University; Terry Medley, West Chester, vice president of biotechnology regulatory affairs at Dupont; and Bill Freese,

Washington, D.C., who represented environmental organization Friends of the Earth at the forum.

Backman said that biotechnology is needed for answers, pointing out that it has already helped solve problems. For example, said Backman, biotechnology has impacted environmental pollution as modified organisms help break down oil spills. Genetically-altered crops have decreased pesticide residues and specialized corn varieties may improve herd health.

Biotechnology, said Backman, may help to address animal, plant, and human health issues. Bioenergy may ease fuel price concerns and help alleviate concerns about the consumption of unrennewable re-

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Perrydell Dairy Farms was honored by the York County extension service for its involvement in agriculture outreach and program support. In the photo taken at the York County farm-city tour last month, the Perry families, Laurie and Greg with son Calvin, left, and Donna and Tom, were on hand to greet visitors to their farm. See story on page A27. Photo by Joyce Bupp, York Co. correspondent