

Farm Bureau Celebrates 50th

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gization. Pennsylvania is the 46th state to join the Farm Bureau Federation.

A former president of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau and current state senator, Noah H. Wenger received the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award. "I've seen a lot of changes in agriculture," said Wenger, who served as president 35 years ago. "You've built on and strengthened the industry. That goes to show what can happen when a group of farmers pull together."

Wenger recognized the challenges to the agriculture industry today in the environmental concerns, legal issues, and animal rights obstacles to farming which were not present years ago. In view of these obstacles, he said, "Pennsylvania agriculture needs a voice in legislature. I believe you are up to the challenge to providing that voice," said Wenger.

The all-star award went to a county that excels in 18 categories. Susquehanna County took home the 2000 all-star designation.

Many government officials recognized the farm bureau's anniversary. Rep. John Barley, Lancaster County, chair of the appropriations committee, read an official citation from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to recognize the Farm Bureau's 50th anniversary.

In addition Secretary of Agriculture Samuel E. Hayes read a message from Tom Ridge to commemorate the occasion.

Hayes called Sen. Robert Jubelirer of Holidaysburg, Blair County, the Senate President Pro Tempore, to the podium for remarks.

"It's good to see the support you offer to a great industry to honor Noah Wenger, who sets the standard all of us try to achieve. His is a voice of agriculture in the general assembly. He's well-respected and someone everyone listens to," said Jubelirer.

Sen. Jubelirer also recognized the efforts of the members and government representatives in the audience. "There are many, many others here tonight who also work very hard for Pennsylvania agriculture," he said.

Hayes thanked members of the general assembly, pointing out that Pennsylvania government and legislators provided the number one drought assistance package in the nation for producers. Hayes also cited Plum Pox help, farm show renovations, farmland preservation, and Pennsylvania Animal Diagnostic Laboratory as examples of Pennsylvania government's commitment to agriculture.

Hayes also recognized the hard work of the Pennsylvania producers. "You provide food, fiber, and shelter for all of us, and in this Thanksgiving season, I'm thankful for all you do," said Hayes.

Besides a commemorative pin, banquet attendees received a book highlighting the people, places, and issues pertaining to the history of the Farm Bureau.

Four outgoing board members, Clarence Berger, Kintersville, Bucks County; Donn Fetterolf, Aaronsburg, Centre County; Wayne Freeman, Elliotsburg, Perry County; and Jerome Carl, Dysart, Cambria County, were recognized for their service to Pennsylvania Farm Bureau.

Other conference events included a Young Farmers and Ranchers discussion meet. The four finalists displayed their communication skills and grasp of agriculture by analyzed and presented their ideas on a solution to an agricultural problem. Andrea Semmel, Schnecksville, Lehigh County, won the competition. The three other finalists included Paul Hartman, Berks County; Michael Braucher, Berks County; and Marie Sipler, Lancaster County.

The Young Farm and Rancher Achievement Award was also announced. Oscar and Marie Sipler, Lancaster County, won the award. The Siplers recently expanded their dairy herd and moved to the Lititz area. They milk 100 head and have 112 heifers.

Other finalists in the achievement award include Joshua Grim, Lehigh County and Alan and Denise Taylor, York County.

Winners of the discussion meet and the achievement award received \$500 from Dodge truck plus a trip to Orlando, Fla. to compete in national competition.

The conference wrapped up with an election of leaders to serve on the board of directors replacing those directors who met tenure this year. Representing District 2, Lehigh County, will be Arland Schantz, Zionsville; District 6, Centre County, Marlene Reese, Port Matilda; District 10, Perry County, Jay Witmer, Liverpool; and District 12, Clearfield County, Leon Kriner, Du Bois.

Delegates deliberated and made decisions on the organization's policies on farm issues such as environmental issues, dairy and other farm commodity concerns, taxes, the vehicle code, research and future trends in agriculture.

Penn State Collaborates On Regional Pest Management Center

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences, in collaboration with Cornell University, will administer the Northeastern Pest Management Center, an initiative by the USDA to bring together specialists from 12 states and the District of Columbia to develop and deliver alternative and safer pest management strategies.

"Each center will act as a connection between agricultural producers, university researchers, extension specialists and other agricultural professionals," said John Ayers, Penn State professor of plant pathology and center director.

Jim VanKirk, facilitator for IPM activities, Cornell University, is center coordinator.

"This is a center without

walls," said VanKirk. "We hope to involve many kinds of people — from farmers, government regulators, and homemakers to environmental advocates." VanKirk envisions the center contributing to pest management solutions on farms as well as in community settings, such as schools and parks.

The Northeast region includes Connecticut, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, Maine, New York, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Vermont, Rhode Island, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

Each center will develop cooperative partnerships among colleges, universities, and crop production experts from states within each region. Three other pest management centers are located in other regions of the U.S. They are north central, coordi-

nated by Michigan State University and the University of Illinois; western, coordinated by the University of California at Davis; and southern, coordinated by the University of Florida.

"Each center will establish a pool of shared expertise, reducing the duplication of effort that is commonly seen in pest management projects or problems that cross state boundaries," Ayers said.

"By creating a regional model that coordinates expert information, technology and education, we can better serve farmers, other agricultural producers, federal and state agencies, and agribusinesses."

Ayers said some of the issues to be addressed by the regional centers will include regulatory restrictions, pesticide resistance, and invasive species.

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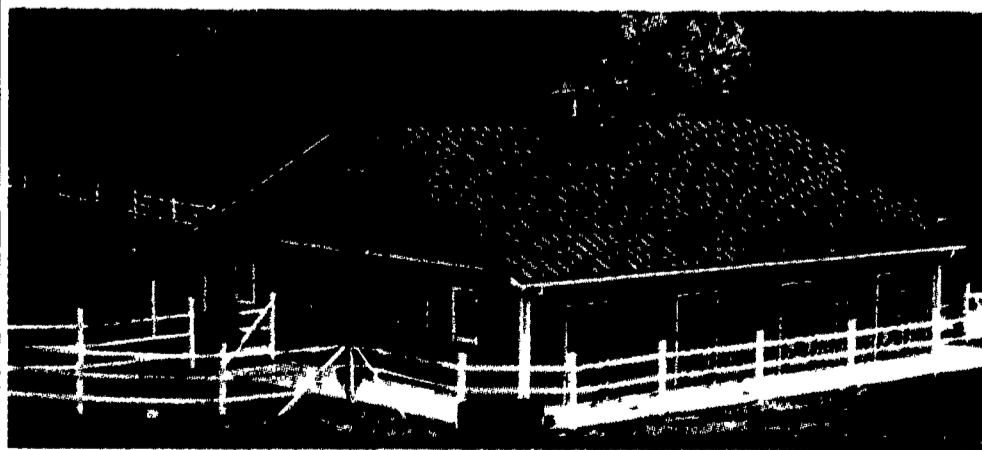
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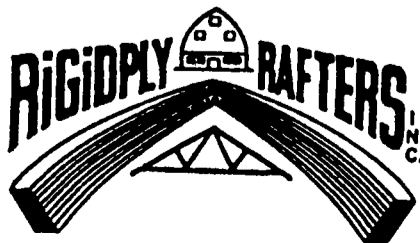
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