

And Well With Pork Processors



New LanChester Pork Council director Scott Augsburger, far left, joins directors Scott Bailey, president; Jerry Hostetter; Kurt Good, secretary; Brent Hershey, vice president; and Richard Kreider at the recent meeting.

(Continued from Page A20)

and onto the sorting floor. "She gets in the chute and crawls up there," Moyer said.

Grandin is "one of the most important people that pork packers have," Moyer said. She is the liaison, Moyer noted, with packers and the public.

The TQA program for truckers will be critical. It will include similar Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) standards in place in other agricultural programs.

The TQA will make use of USDA inspectors that will watch hog unloading. If excessive shocker use is evident, the trucker can be written up, noted Moyer.

When the hogs leave the farm, the producer basically loses "all control of them," which can directly affect the pocketbook. The TQA will take into account tractor-trailer appearance, with slip-resistant floors; proper lighting; and recommended will be sprinkling systems during the summertime (though they won't be required).

The driver is the most important segment of TQA. He's the packer's "eyes and ears," said Moyer, of the industry, providing feedback about what's happening on the farm. The health of the animals, and legal weight loads, are the driver's responsibility, Moyer noted.

Often, producers listen to drivers. Some take driver's ideas to heart.

Moyer noted that "crippled animals should not be loaded, period," he said.

And "excess shocker and whip use is forbidden."

Moyer said, "All truck drivers want to do a good job. From a farm community, we probably have the best truck drivers anywhere. For the most part, drivers do a real good job."

Rob Meinen, Penn State senior extension associate, spoke about the new Penn State Livestock Environmental Certification Program. And Bob Mikesell of Penn State Cooperative Extension provided an overview of the Pork Quality Assurance Level III Certification.

According to Scott Bailey, council president, three new directors were elected to serve three-year terms. They included Scott Augsburger, production manager of Hostetter Management Company; Doug Brubaker, swine services representative, Hess Mills; and Eric Zeiset, White Oak Mills.

Tobacco Auction Opens Jan. 4

ANDY ANDREWS
Lancaster Farming Staff

QUARRYVILLE (Lancaster Co.) — The Pennsylvania Tobacco Marketing Association (PTMA) has announced the tobacco auction will begin 9 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 4, here at the Solanco Fairgrounds.

According to manager Dennis Hess, the auction will take place in the new exhibition building built last summer, the largest on the fairgrounds in the southwest corner.

The association, which runs the auction, will begin accepting tobacco Tuesday, Jan. 2 and Wednesday, Jan. 3.

The auction will accept tobacco for auction by appointment only. Contact Hess at (717) 626-6970.

The fairgrounds are located along Rt. 472 one block south of Rt. 372 in Quarryville.

About three to four buyers notified Hess they would be at the auction.

Tobacco is sorted into three grades and a "scrap" grade, Hess noted. Scrap is green or off-grade tobacco.

Shed burn or blue mold tobacco needs to have a separate grade. Shed burn is caused when the tobacco is hung too close in the barn and doesn't receive proper ventilation to dry it down correctly. Leaves drop off stalk and "it rots rather than drying down," Hess said.

For producers who want to market tobacco, Hess noted it is important to keep the moisture content down. Leaves should "rattle," said Hess.

Good cigarette tobacco should be at 15-18 percent moisture. In the past, some Hess has tested had moisture levels at 50 percent or more. That kind of wetness "has hurt our market over the years," he said. And water simply adds weight the buyers don't want.

Each bale should be about 50-60 pounds ideally, Hess noted.

Also, Hess said the auction is looking for warehouse workers to help move tobacco around four days per week. The auction also needs office workers to run calculators and a computer. Contact Hess at (717) 626-6970 for details on wages.

Hess also said that he is aware that two different lots of processed tobacco were sold by growers in the association. The association must receive three cents a pound on that sale.

Some growers who sold privately also need to forward three cents per pound of the tobacco sold to the association. Send checks to PTMA, 870 Clay Rd., Lititz, PA 17543.

The PTMA has about 450 members, Hess said. Hess expects about four million pounds of tobacco to be sold this season.

MUCH IS A WEEK WORTH?

New Gramoxone Max. Burndown doesn't get any faster.

Introducing GRAMOXONE® MAX herbicide. It burns down weeds in just 24 to 48 hours, so you can plant sooner for higher yields.

Why wait a week or two for glyphosate herbicides to work? GRAMOXONE MAX does the job fast, so you can get on with other business. You don't have to wait for warm weather, either, because GRAMOXONE MAX is active on contact.

Count on GRAMOXONE MAX, now in a convenient concentrated formulation. Use it and save some time. For more information, visit our web site at syngenta-us.com

**GRAMOXONE
MAX**

Speed With Confidence