

First Woman Named National Ag Secretary

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roots within the agriculture community and has gained significant experience managing agriculture affairs at both the state and federal levels. From 1995 to 1999, she served as secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, directing the state agency that oversees the largest agricultural economy in the nation. Vereman also served as Deputy Secretary

of USDA from 1991 to 1993 in then President Bush's administration. As the second ranking person in the department at that time, she directed and oversaw 42 agencies with a budget of more than \$60 billion and a workforce of 11,000 employees.

Raised on a peach farm, Veneman has an extensive background in international trade and made it a priority to expand global opportunities for Califor-

nia agriculture. Many officials of farm organizations have expressed the belief that this trade background makes Veneman a good choice for the cabinet position.

"I think Ann Veneman is a great choice for Secretary of Agriculture," said Stephen Censky, chief executive officer of the American Soybean Association. "Clearly, Ann knows agriculture very well. She has spent her whole career in agriculture working for farmers and ranchers both at the Department of Agriculture as well as Commissioner of Agriculture in California."

Guy Donaldson, president of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, also applauded the news of Veneman's selection. "From her experience in prior government positions, Farm Bureau knows Veneman to be an extremely knowledgeable, capable and effective advocate for all of agriculture," Donaldson said. "She knows how USDA works and the range of responsibilities she will have to oversee. In particular, Farm Bureau is impressed with her experience in the international trade area. Her nomination signals that President-

elect Bush plans to follow through on his campaign pledges to open new markets for American agriculture."

Veneman earned a bachelor's degree from the University of California at Davis; a master's degree in public policy from the University of California at Berkeley; and a law degree from the University of California, Hastings College of Law. She will be leaving her present position as a partner in the law firm of Nossaman, Guthner, Knox, and Elliott.

Junior Holstein Convention


WEST MIDDLESEX (Mercer Co.) — Have you ordered your tickets yet?

The Pennsylvania Junior Holstein Association northwest district welcomes all junior members to the 2001 Pennsylvania Junior Holstein Convention, Feb. 2-4 here at the Radisson Hotel.

Friday activities will include the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Junior Holstein Association along with the mixer

complete with a DJ for a dance and a few special surprises and activities. There will also be plenty of food and drink for everyone to enjoy while they renew old acquaintances and meet some new friends from around the state.

For contest entry forms or additional information on Pennsylvania Junior Holstein activities, contact Pennsylvania Holstein Association, 839 Benner Pike, State College, PA 16801, (814) 234-0364.




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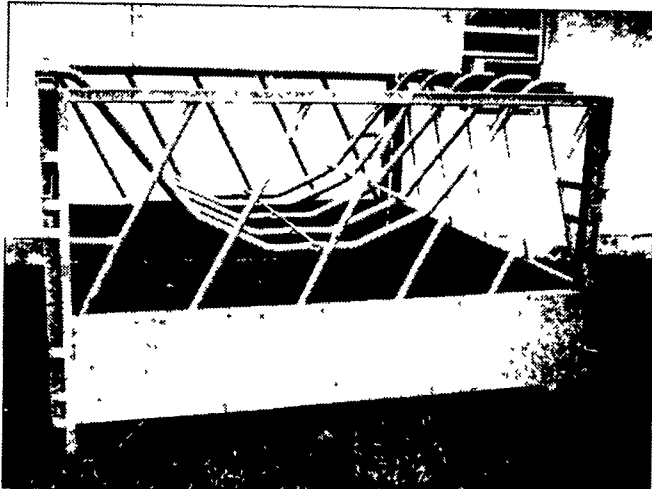
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