

PFAF, Nationwide Sponsor Ninth Annual Golf Classic

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Market Staff

CAMP HILL (Dauphin Co.) — "Sowing the seeds of our future" is not just the slogan but the driving force of the Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture Foundation (PFAF).

The largest fundraising event of the group is an annual golf tournament.

The Ninth Annual Golf Classic, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Friends of Agriculture and Nationwide Insurance, will be June 25 at the West Course of the Country Club of Hershey.

Co-chairmen for this year's tournament are Richard L. Prether and Joseph R. Patti from the public relations staff of the

Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. Reservations are open until June 11 and can be made by calling Jackie Wimberly at (717) 761-2740.

The future of agriculture lies in educating our youth, agricultural research and technology, and the preservation of farmland. To promote these goals, the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau created the Foundation in the mid-1980s to provide funds for educational, scientific, and charitable programs related to agriculture.

"Agriculture in the Classroom" is probably the Foundation's most well-known project. Each summer, teachers are offered a one-week accredited course at Penn State's main campus, where they learn how to use

agriculture in the classrooms for kindergarten through sixth grades.

PFAF partners with individuals and county Farm Bureau associations to provide scholarships to teachers in both public and private schools to attend the accredited continuing education course. More than 800 teachers have attended since the program began in 1992.

Marlin R. Miller, PFAF executive director, said that PFAF funds several other programs which involve agricultural education. They contribute on an annual basis to the program called "Food, Land, and People," which was developed in California and adapted to run in schools throughout Pennsylvania with the aid of extension personnel. They also provide funds for Penn

State's Rural Leadership Program and the Ag Awareness Foundation, plus scholarships for students at Delaware Valley College and Penn State.

PFAF also finances a class for teachers called "Seed Sense," which is part of the Penn State course. They provide a packet of lesson plans and resource materials on agriculture to city and suburban schools.

Delaware Valley College To Host Annual A-Day April 28-29

DOYLESTOWN (Bucks Co.) — Delaware Valley College will host its annual A-Day celebration April 28-29 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., rain or shine, here on the college campus.

Now in its 53rd year, A-Day is totally coordinated and run by a team of students who are advised by a panel of faculty, staff, or administration members.

A-Day showcases the students' accomplishments over the past year, plus student club exhibits and demonstrations in a country fair-type setting. Featured attractions include a craft show, equipment, display, hayrides through the college's orchards and farms,

pony rides, an animal exhibit, contests of skill, and a variety of food prepared by the student clubs and organizations.

In addition, there is always musical entertainment on the main stage from the DelVal band and chorale and other talented musicians. An estimated 50,000 visitors attend A-Day.

All of the proceeds from the event go directly to student scholarships and the student clubs and organizations participating in the weekend. A-Day is the largest fund raiser in which the college's clubs and organizations participate all year.

Mandatory Livestock Price Reporting

A proposed rule and invitation for comment by the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) of USDA to implement the 1999 Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act was published in the Federal Register on Fri., Mar. 17.

The simple message of the legislation is that a small segment of the livestock industry (bovine, porcine and ovine) has required the packing and processing industry to report livestock purchases and sales of meat to a government agency, electronically, two or three times daily, or be penalized for failure to do so with extortion-like civil penalties.

The stated purpose of the legislation is "to ensure that small farmers and ranchers have a full and fair opportunity to compete in an increasingly concentrated agricultural economy." Agriculture Secretary Glickman said in a statement.

Sounds pretty straight forward. But the fact is that this voluminous, prescriptive regulation will be a nightmare to implement and probably won't

help small farmers and ranchers at all.

The AMS proposal reaches beyond the expectations of the legislation in many respects. It raises many more questions than it answers. It includes an extensive reporting system for the lamb industry. Quite frankly, at face value, the system being proposed will be so cumbersome and complicated that its negative impact is expected to be much worse than anticipated. Those affected directly are livestock packers and product processors and importers who slaughter an average of 125,000 cattle, 100,000 swine and/or 75,000 lambs per year. Importers who annually import an average of 5,000 metric tons of lamb meat are also required to report.

Although the government plans to aggregate the reported prices and issue electronic reports two or three times daily, USDA is still seeking input from the livestock and meat industry on how this new information would best be reported back to

the industry. It remains to be seen if they will be able to make anything out of the reams of mandatory data the price police will whip the industry into producing.

The National Meat Association (NMA) vociferously opposed this legislation as it was developed last year. One hearing was held before the Agriculture Committee in the U.S. Senate at which NMA testified. The bill eventually was attached to an appropriations bill and became law without the benefit of full discussion.

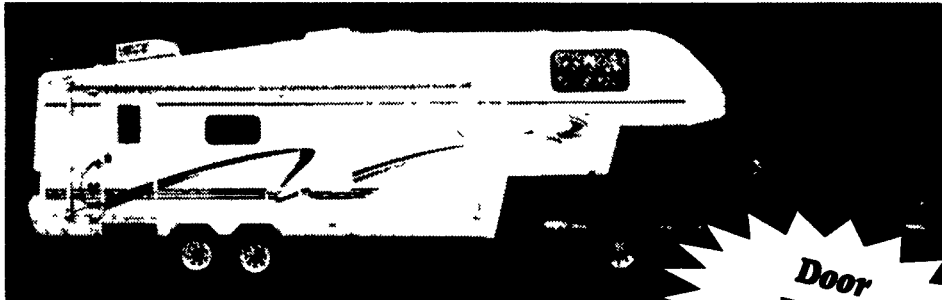
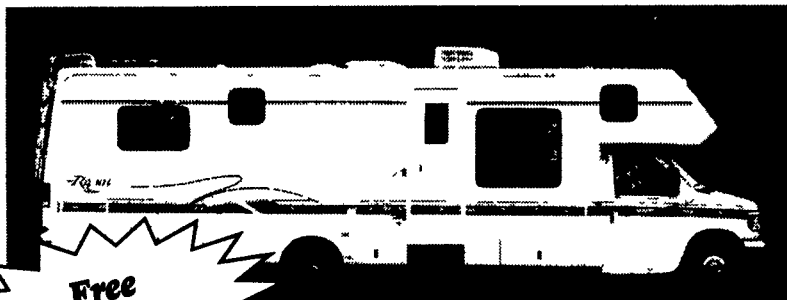
NMA and its Washington-based counsel, with the input from key members, is developing a summary that will be made available to all members. If you would like a copy of this enormous proposed rule visit NMA's files page it at www.nmaonline.org/download AMS has provided additional information at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/price.htm>.

William R. Henning
Penn State Extension

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