

## Ag Council Meeting

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seed interests. Headquartered in Harrisburg, the organization's vision is to consolidated the agribusiness industry to speak with one voice.

A representative council can go to the table with positions that represent all facets of agriculture and increase the volume of the voices presented at the capitol, he said.

Jana Malot, representing the Soil and Water Conservation Society, said that the organization is "in the lead to help make it easier for change."

For example, said Malot, with the nutrient management laws, the society "helped to develop policy and educate consultants to bring producers in line with the law." They also conduct research, then create seminars which in turn teach consultants

to help farmers.

Tillage, soil quality and health conferences also help educate producers and equipment dealers. The organization makes available educational materials, such as a stormwater quality management manual, to consultants for use in the field.

### Council Activities

Comprised of agriculture and ag-related organizations, the Penn State Ag Council advises Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences and serves as a voice in legislative issues dealing with agriculture.

Activities of the Council include sponsoring a summer research tour for legislators.

This year a tour focusing on food safety is slated. In addition they also sponsor educational seminars for students, utilizing speakers from the agriculture industry groups on the Council.

## Charolais Association And Western Video Market Announce Charolais-Influenced Sale Series

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — On July 9, 10, and 11, commercial cattlemen will have their first opportunity to participate in an all Charolais-influenced, special section satellite video sale produced by the American-International Charolais Association (AICA), Kansas City, Mo., and Western Video Market, Cottonwood, Calif.

This sale, the first in a series of verified Charolais-influenced feeder calf sales will take place at the John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel in Reno, Nevada. The second sale in the Charolais series is slated to take place on Aug. 20 and 21 in Cheyenne, Wyo.

According to Western Video

Market president Andy Peek, "Charolais cattle enjoy an excellent reputation among our feeder buyers and have always sold extremely well in our video auctions. This is an exciting opportunity for both producers and Western Video Market."

Producers from across the United States are encouraged to take part in this landmark event. Approximately 90 percent of the Charolais-influenced cattle nominated for the satellite video auction must be sired by registered Charolais bulls.

In addition to calves being sired by registered Charolais bulls, the AICA and Western Video Market encourage produc-

ers to utilize some type of pre-vac program. For this video event, cattlemen are also encouraged to precondition their calves and include marketing options for these cattle. "By incorporating these simple management practices, producers are adding value to their cattle," said Scott Farmer, AICA director of commercial activities.

The first sale in July, is expected to draw more than 5,000 head of Charolais-cross feeder calves.

"This partnership will be a tremendous addition to our summer video sales, and we intend to vigorously advertise and market these quality offerings," said Peek.

If you would like to take part in this inaugural sale, contact Andy or Ellington Peek at (530) 347-3793 or e-mail them at wvm@wvmcattle.com.

## Lamb Trade Assistance

On Jan. 13, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman announced the details of a commitment to help the U.S. sheep and lamb industry with a \$100 million assistance plan.

The plan makes \$50 million available during the first year, and an additional \$50 million during the second and third years for production improvements, market promotion, animal health and domestic purchases.

Sheep industry representatives hope that the funding will help to reenergize the domestic sheep and lamb industry, and encour-

age it to make the essential changes that will improve its competitive position in the marketplace with imported product.

The plan, which includes funding for production improvements, animal health and domestic purchases, was criticized by foreign competitors. Meat New Zealand's chairman said the U.S. "subsidies" to its lamb producers had a political objective, weren't the result of an objective analysis, and were unlikely to achieve increased competitiveness.

He told Reuters that the problem with the U.S. industry is its

uncompetitiveness and need for structural adjustment, adding that the subsidies weren't unexpected and the other part of the package, the temporary tariff protection, was much more objectionable.

Domestic representatives were more enthusiastic about the funds, but recognized that hard work is still ahead.

"It is now up to our industry to come together and work with the administration to make real-time improvements for everyone," said National Sheep Association (NSA) President Mike Caskey in a news statement.

### USDA/AMS To Standardize Goat Meat Cuts

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) is seeking comments on a draft of new Institutional Meat Purchase Specifications (IMPS) for fresh goat.

Prompted by requests from the goat industry, AMS is seeking standardized criteria for carcass evaluation and descriptions of goat meat.

Comments are due by June 2. The draft is available at the AMS web site For more information contact Steve Olson at (202)720-4486.

William R. Henning  
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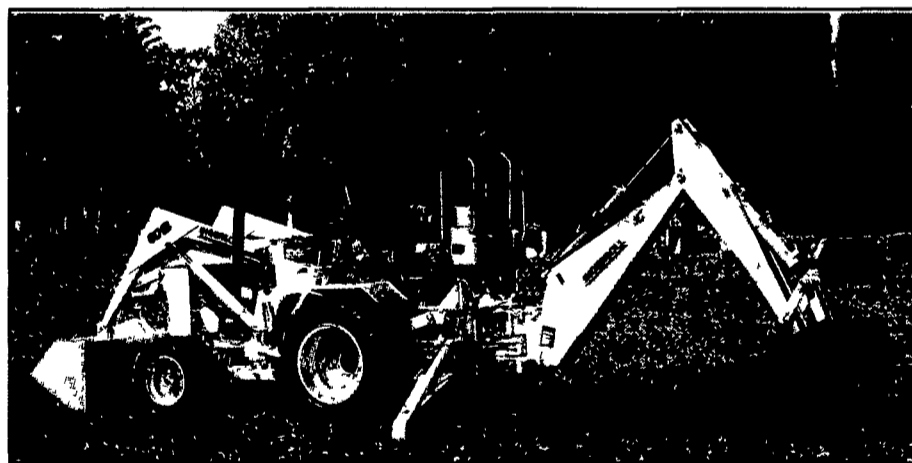


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