

Lehman Earns Top Awards



Heather Lehman of Mechanicsburg received a surprise award at the Poultry Science banquet. Professor and poultry department head, Robert Elkin, presented Heather with the 2001 Bryce Jordan Student Leadership Award offered by the College of Ag Sciences. Earlier in the year, Heather received the Outstanding Student of the Year Award at the International Poultry Exposition in Atlanta, Ga. After graduation, Heather will work as a research biologist for Merck.

Photo by Gail Strock, Mifflin Co. correspondent

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of the industry — from the egg to packaging — to control the quality of our product," Perdue said.

Today, Perdue sees \$2.5 billion in sales with 20 operating plants in 13 states.

"Our goals are people (safety and retention), products, and profitability," Perdue said. Perdue operates wellness centers for employees as an early intervention program.

Perdue listed and explained five issues affecting today's poultry industry — consolidation, globalization, food safety, environmental issues, and providing value-added food to respond to the consumer's needs.

Perdue said his company is looking for students with a strong work ethic and good teamwork skills and who are caring and willing to learn.



Jim Perdue, left, president of Perdue Farms in Salisbury, Md., was feature speaker at the Penn State Poultry Science Club Awards banquet at the Nittany Lion Inn in State College. Michael Levensgood, a Perdue Complex manager, met also with poultry science students.



Dirk Wise, left, Penn State Poultry Science Club adviser, joins the club's new officers. Second from the left is Nick Gardner, Ag Student Council representative; Tracy Lindgren, vice president; Karen Groner, secretary/treasurer; and Josh Elliott, president.

Fundraiser Supports

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"It's our responsibility to impact policies," he said.

Proceeds from the fundraising dinner are used to support state legislative candidates of both major political parties in future elections. The FARMER committee reviews each candidate's voting record, performance, and evaluates stance regarding support of agriculture legislative.

Farmers are urged to give input on endorsement as plans will soon be formulated for support, according to Marlene Reese, board chairman.

FARMER takes a bipartisan approach by alternating between Democratic and Republican officials as speakers for the annual dinner, which is its main fund-raising event.

This year, Pennsylvania Auditor General Robert P. Casey Jr., as the featured speaker, expressed his gratitude for PFB's caring response to the illness and death of his dad, former Governor Robert Casey Sr., who passed away last May.

Casey recounted his father's support to agriculture through passing legislation on farmland preservation, drought payments, animal health issues, student loans and forgiveness programs, and the Nutrient Management Act.

Although his dad's strong effort for local tax reform did not turn out well, Casey said, "It was the right thing to do."

Casey urged the audience to do the right thing and have faith in God, life, people, and a positive outlook in order to live successful lives.

As an elected official facing a race for state governorship next year, Casey said that he seeks advice from farmers on ag issues. He said that he supports farmers and their right to farm and to take advantage of technological opportunities.

A quote by Thomas Jefferson in 1821 continues to be thought provoking and true, Casey said: "When we direct from Washington when to sow and when to reap, we will soon need bread."

According to Casey, farmers are the best people to determine legislation that affects them.

"Agriculture will be a major player in Pennsylvania's future," Casey said. It is his desire to see profit margins kept high and a challenge to target dollars to agriculture for overall economical development strategy.

His father's and grandfather's life, Casey said, are examples of lives lived quietly and triumphantly. They did their work, paid taxes, raised children, and lived a life of fulfillment.

"We must do more to enable more families to attain lives of fulfillment," Casey said. "Our job and obligation as legislators is to create an environment where families can succeed, grow, and stay in Pennsylvania."

New Trustees Elected To Holstein Board

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. — David Pierson, chairman of the Holstein Foundation board, has announced that Calvin Covington, CEO of Southeast Milk, Inc., and Tom Morris, registered Holstein sales manager and auctioneer and publisher of Cattle Connection, have been elected unanimously to serve as members of the Holstein Foundation board. They will assume their new responsibilities at the June 28 meeting of the Holstein Foundation board in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Prior to his current position as CEO of Southeast Milk, Inc.,

Covington served as executive secretary and chief executive officer of American Jersey Cattle Association-National All-Jersey Inc. In addition to his board service with the Holstein Foundation, Covington is also a director of National Dairy Shrine, a director of Ocala/Marion County Chamber of Commerce, and a director, Advantage Dairy Group.

Morris is a registered Holstein sales manager and auctioneer. During the past 20 years, the Morris organization has managed several hundred Holstein sales across America, as well as

in Canada and Europe. The World Classic at the World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wis. has been under their management for more than a dozen years and they have been selected to conduct their seventh National Holstein Convention Sale next year in Atlantic City, N.J.

Other members of the board include David Pierson, chairman; Richard Chichester, vice chairman; Maurice Mix, secretary; Bonnie Ayars; Henry Beneke; Don Berg; Richard Cotta; Dr. David Dickson; Kelly Eich; William T. Graham; Dr. David Morrow; Donald Seipt; Barbara Spoon; and Elmo Wendorf Jr.



At the annual statewide FARMER fund-raising dinner, Pennsylvania Auditor General Robert Casey Jr., center, is welcomed by Carl Shaffer, vice president, left, and Guy Donaldson, president of Pennsylvania Farm Bureau.

Producers Attend School

ITHACA, N.Y. — The Cornell Swine School, held on March 22 and 23, featured knowledgeable speakers on pork industry issues and concerns of pork producers. Approximately 60 people attended the two-day event.

In addition, trade show exhibitors provided the participants with information on the products and services they have available to pork producers.