

Frank Perdue Named 'Man Of The Year' At Commodity Classic, Md.

EDGEWATER, Md. — For a third year, crowds of farmers from the Maryland Grain Producers Association (MGPA) and the Maryland Soybean Board (MSB) put their work aside for a day to attend the Commodity Classic, the joint annual meeting for both groups. Though hot, humid temperatures prevailed throughout most of the day, everyone was delighted with the downpour of rain that came during the afternoon meeting.

One highlight of the day in-

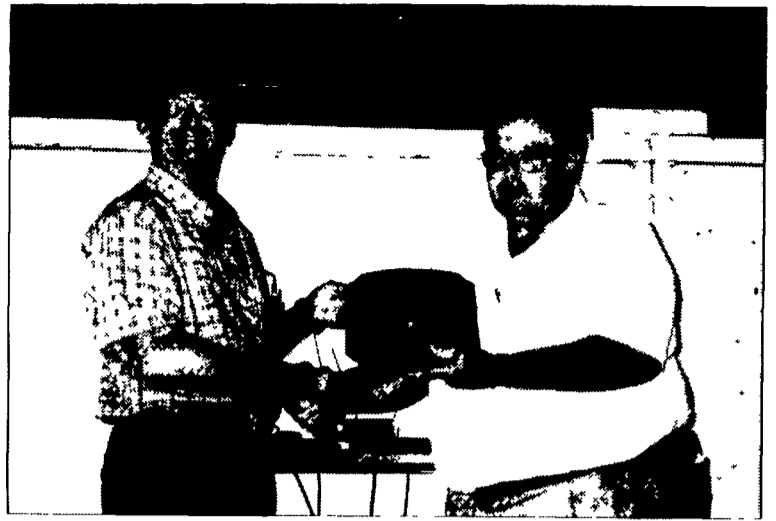
cluded the presentation of the MGPA "Man of the Year" award. This year's award was presented to Frank Perdue. Perdue is known as a pioneer in the poultry industry and a strong advocate for Maryland's grain industry.

"When Frank Perdue's name was nominated, the entire board unanimously agreed he was the perfect man for this award," stated Jamie Jamison, master of ceremonies and a grain farmer in Montgomery County. "Perdue has always been there

in support of our industry. Last year's surplus of grain was a perfect example. Perdue Farms could have easily turned their back's and refused our grain. Instead, they accepted our trucks and dumped it on the ground for future storage! That commitment to the grain industry is tremendous."

Accepting the award for Perdue was Dick Willey. Willey is the present and general manager of the Grain, Oil and Seed Division of Perdue Farms, Inc.

Willey commented on how



Dick Willey, left, president and general manager of Grain, Oil and Seed Division of Perdue Farms, Inc., accepts "Man of the Year" award for Frank Perdue from Jamie Jamison, right, emcee for the third annual Maryland Commodity Classic.

Vines Named Head Of Penn State's Ag Information And Communication

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Neal Vines, director of Agriculture Information Systems at Purdue University, has been named director of Information and Communication Technologies in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences, effective June 2001.

Vines heads the college's Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) unit, which was formed in 2000 by the merger of Ag Information Services and Computer Services. ICT's services include video production and conferencing, publishing, news and media relations, information technology, Web development, computer training and support, and exhibit design.

Vines provides leadership for information technology and communication initiatives; incorporate technology objectives

into the college's strategic plans; and implement strategies for identifying and reaching the college's key audiences.

Vines earned his bachelor's degree in animal science from Virginia Tech in 1980, then joined that university as an agricultural extension agent. From 1981 to 1988 he was a farm management agent, and in 1988 he was named a computer resource agent.

In 1995, after earning his master's degree in information systems from Virginia Tech, he was named coordinator of the university's Extension Information Systems. He directed the implementation of Virginia Cooperative Extension's first statewide data and telecommunications network, a \$1.5 million project that included negotiating with telecommunications companies and establishing procedures and guidelines for network installa-

tion.

Vines also established a Web project with the Department of Agricultural Research and Extension Communications, paving the way for the communications unit and Extension Information Systems to jointly develop and maintain Web sites for extension, agriculture experiment stations, and other parts of the Virginia Tech College of Agriculture.

In 1998, Vines joined Purdue University as director of Agriculture Information Systems. There he led a joint effort to establish a collaborative development project for departmental Web sites, which united academic departments, administrators and technology professionals in a coordinated effort to address information technology issues.

strongly Perdue has supported Maryland's grain industry. Having begun in the poultry industry back in the 1960s, he (Perdue) realized the value of a good working relationship with Maryland's grain farmers. Known as the "Tough man who makes a tender chicken," Perdue has always been in the heart of the business willing to go the extra mile.

Also scheduled during the afternoon meeting was a panel discussion for the 2002 Farm Bill. On hand to give their perspective was John McClelland, director for energy and analysis for the National Corn Growers Association; Anne Keys, from the Environmental Working Group; and Rick Kirchoff, of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture.

Following the Farm Bill discussion were short presentations

by John Schillinger, of Heartland Farms and Gene Gebolys, of World Energy Alternative, LLC speaking on the explosive use of biodiesel.

Before breaking for the much awaited crab feast, attendees were given a quick overview of the favorable findings for the Ethanol Feasibility Study commissioned by the MGPA. Following the meal, an Ethanol Workshop was held which gave specific details on the first phase of the study.

Jamison concluded by saying, "I feel like the day was a great success. Each year we try to offer information on pressing issues, as well as, give guests some enjoyment and down time. We have just completed our wheat harvest season and are only a few weeks from beginning another. The Commodity Classic is a good break for these members."

Cornell's Mann Library Sells 50th 'Library-In-A-Box' To African College

ITHACA, N.Y. — Cornell University's Albert R. Mann Library has reached a milestone in disseminating information to the developing world: It has sold its 50th "library in a box," a full set of scientific journals packed onto 296 CD-ROMs. Distribution began in 1999.

The 50th set was sent to the Bunda College of Agriculture in the sub-Saharan Africa country of Malawi. Bunda's library serves about 600 students, scientists and lecturers in an isolated community about 30 kilometers from the country's capital, Lilongwe. The library, supported by donors, had subscribed to nearly 100 journals. Because of financial cuts, the library has had no journal subscriptions for the past three years.

Now, like 49 other institutions in the developing world, Bunda has a "library in a box," called The Essential Electronic Agricultural Library, or TEEAL.

"The Bunda library was very enthusiastic to acquire TEEAL with its full-text articles and graphics," says Nicole Joos, the Mann Library's TEEAL project manager.

The boxed library — which includes 140 journals with back issues to 1993 and with provisions for updates through 2005 — is available for sale only in 111 developing countries and is priced at \$10,000. That may seem like a lot of money; but an annual subscription to all 140 journals, ranging from African Crop Science Journal to the World's Poultry Science Journal, if bought separately, would cost well over \$350,000.

Because leading scientific publishers have waived royalty fees, the library is able to offer TEEAL at a fraction of the real cost. Several donor agencies, including the World Bank and the Ford and Rockefeller foundations, make financial grants available.

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