

Environmental Program Sign Up Ends Feb. 8

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — The Farm Service Agency is accepting applications through Feb. 8 for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). This sign up period will address the Statewide Resource Concerns only. A later sign-up period will be held for farms located in the Chickies Watershed.

EQIP works primarily in areas where there are significant natural resource concerns, such as soil erosion, water quality and quantity, wildlife habitat, wetlands, and forest and grazing lands.

Priority is given to areas where State or local governments offer financial, technical, or educational assistance and to areas where agricultural improvements will help meet water quality objectives. Activities must be carried out according to a conservation plan.

EQIP is one of several Federal, State, and local conservation programs that farmers can use to solve their natural resource concerns.

EQIP offers financial, educational, and technical help to in-

stall or implement structural, vegetative, and management practices called for in five- to 10-year contracts. These practices — which include manure management systems, pest management and erosion control — help improve and maintain the health of natural resources.

Cost sharing may pay up to 75 percent of the costs of certain conservation practices. Nationally, half of the funding for EQIP is targeted to livestock-related natural resource concerns and the remainder to other significant conservation priorities.

Contracts are awarded on a competitive basis among a pool of 14 counties in south central Pennsylvania. Proposals are ranked using a scoring system based on ballpark estimates of total program costs of the practices planned. Requests can be made at the Farm Service Agency, located at the Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, or phone (717) 397-6235.

Pennsylvanians Encouraged To Attend Environmental Education Meetings

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Secretary David E. Hess recently encouraged citizens to attend one of several public sessions to be held this spring on recommendations outlined in the "Pennsylvania Environmental Readiness for the 21st Century" report.

"This first-of-its-kind report identified 12 challenges to increasing the public's understanding of environmental issues," Secretary Hess said.

"We'd like to hear ideas from as many Pennsylvanians as possible on how we might meet these challenges."

The report by the Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education (PCEE) includes the results of a survey of Pennsylvania adults on their knowledge of, attitudes toward and behaviors related to the environment.

The report identified educational issues in the following 12 areas: biodiversity; hazardous waste; air quality; renewable re-

sources; water quality; wetlands; suburban sprawl; non-point source pollution; energy; watershed management; solid waste; and sustainable development.

"The survey found that Pennsylvanians want to take personal responsibility for helping to solve the state's environmental problems, but they — like the nation as a whole — currently have little knowledge of major environmental issues," PCEE Director Paulette Johnson said. "It's our goal to come up with ways to help increase Pennsylvanians' understanding about our environment so that they can become better stewards of our natural resources."

In order to achieve this goal, the PCEE will hold regional meetings throughout Pennsylvania beginning in March to hear from formal and non-formal educators, environmental professionals, business and community leaders, and the general public.

There will be two meetings at each location: the first from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., and the second from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Following is a list of meeting dates and locations:

- Dauphin County: March 6, Wildwood Lake Sanctuary, Harrisburg;

- Philadelphia: March 13, Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education;

- Lackawanna County: March 19, Radisson Lackawanna Station, Scranton;

- Centre County: March 20, Institute for Science and Technology, Pleasant Gap (The afternoon meeting will be 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.);

- Pittsburgh: April 2, Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve; and

- Crawford County: April 3, Pelletier Library, Meadville.

PCEE is a cooperative agreement among 11 partners, including DEP, formed in 1996 to ensure that citizens in the Commonwealth have access to quality environmental education.

For more information on the public sessions or a copy of the Environmental Readiness for the 21st Century report, visit the Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education's website at www.pcee.state.pa.us (Under the "Explore" category, click "EE Research").

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Ohio Swine Inventory Down 5 Percent

REYNOLDSBURG, Ohio — Ohio hog producers had 1,420,000 hogs on hand December 1, 2001 down 5 percent from a year earlier and 3 percent below last quarter, according to the Ohio Agricultural Statistics Service.

The number of market hogs, at 1,260,000 head, was down 5 percent from last year and 3 percent below last quarter.

Breeding stock, at 160,000 head, remained the same as last quarter, but down 6 percent from last year.

The Ohio pig crop during the September-November 2001 quarter numbered 635,000 head, down 2 percent from last year

and 4 percent below last quarter.

The number of sows farrowed during the September-November 2000 quarter at 73,000 was 1,000 below last quarter and last year. Pigs saved per litter averaged 8.70 and was down from the same period last year and last quarter.

Ohio producers intend to farrow 71,000 sows during the December-February 2002 quarter; 2,000 head less than a year earlier. Farrowing intentions for the spring quarter, March-May 2002, are 70,000 sows — 3,000 head less than the same quarter of 2001.

2002 American Dairy Association and Dairy Council, Inc. Annual Meeting and New York State Dairy Princess Pageant

AGENDA:

Tuesday, February 19, 2002

5:00 p.m. - Reception

6:00 p.m. - Banquet

- ADADC 2001 Program Presentation
- New York State Dairy Princess Pageant
- Tickets - \$25 per person

Wednesday, February 20, 2002

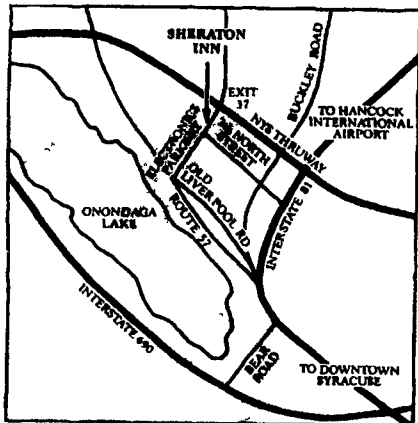
8:00 a.m. - ADADC Business Meeting

- Financing Update
- Advertising Update
- Program Updates

LOCATION:

Holiday Inn

7th N. Street and Electronics Parkway
 Liverpool, NY
 315-457-1122



Located directly across from exit #37 of the New York State Thruway. Coming from Route 81 North or South, get off exit #25 - Seventh North Street exit. Go to the end of the ramp and take a right. Go all the way to the end of the road one mile.

Reservations must be made by **Friday, February 8, 2002**

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Please reserve _____ ticket(s) for the banquet at \$25.00/person (Check payable to ADADC). Tickets will be held at the door.

Yes, I will be attending the business meeting on Wednesday

Send Reservation to: Meghan Fullington, American Dairy Association and Dairy Council, Inc.
 219 South West Street, Suite 100, Syracuse, NY 13202-1205,
 315-472-9143

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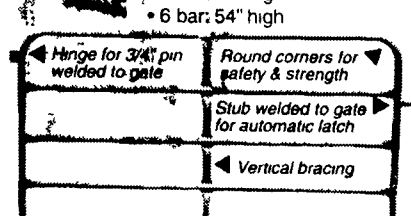
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