

Personnel Changes Occur At State DEP

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — DEP Secretary David E. Hess this week announced the appointment of Eric R. Conrad of Enola, Cumberland County, as Acting Deputy Secretary for Field Operations.

"Eric has more than 22 years of experience with the department, making him a natural choice to be Acting Deputy," Secretary Hess said. "While serving at the executive level in DEP's Field Operations Deputate, Eric played a key role in the development of several important programs, including the department's West Nile Virus Surveillance and Control Program and the Commonwealth's Geographic Information System-based West Nile Virus disease tracking system."

Conrad will oversee the Office of Field Operations, which is responsible for the operation of the department's six regional offices. These offices are responsible for implementing the Commonwealth's environmental-protection programs including air, water, oil and gas, radiation protection, waste, and emergency response.

Office activities include: evaluating the daily operations of DEP's environmental programs; managing the West Nile Virus Mosquito Surveillance and Black Fly control programs; and working closely with elected officials, federal and state agencies, local

environmental groups, citizen activists, agriculture interests, and watershed associations.

Conrad, a registered geologist, has served as director of regional coordination and program evaluation in DEP's Office of Field Operations since September, where he provided support to the deputy secretary. He previously served as special assistant to the deputy secretary for Field Operations, and as executive assistant to the deputy secretary in DEP's Office of Mineral Resources Management.

Conrad received a master's degree in regional and urban planning from The Pennsylvania State University and a bachelor's of arts degree in geology from New England College, Henniker, N.H. Conrad lives in Enola with his wife, Vonnice.

In other personnel news, Hess also announced that DEP Deputy Secretary of Air, Recycling and Radiation Protection Denise Chamberlain will be leaving the department later this month.

"During Denise's tenure the programs in her deputate had significant accomplishments including multi-state coordination of waste disposal policy and enforcement, encouraging brownfields redevelopment through the PaSiteFinder.com Website and concluding multi-site cleanup agreements with the Department of Defense and BP and assuring continued professional manage-

ment of our radiation protection programs," Hess said.

Chamberlain was appointed deputy by former Gov. Tom Ridge in August 1997. Previously, she served as vice president and associate counsel for Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh, where she was involved in environmental, corporate lending and bankruptcy work.

Hess also announced that Robert Barkanic, deputy secretary for Pollution Prevention and Compliance Assistance, has been appointed acting deputy for Air, Recycling and Radiation Protection.

Bureau of Air Quality Director James Salvaggio announced this week that he will retire Jan. 25 after more than 35 years of service to the Commonwealth.

In a letter to fellow employees, Salvaggio said, "You have been a pleasure to work with and our combined efforts have been beyond the sum of our individual accomplishments. We have significantly improved air quality in Pennsylvania. Ozone, carbon monoxide, particulate, toxic and other pollutant concentrations have been reduced throughout the state. Today millions of Pennsylvanians breathe clean, healthy air because of your work. Thousands of individuals with respiratory disease have the benefit of your efforts. You are to be congratulated for your accomplishments."

Dairy Risk Management Training Set

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) — Milk prices have fallen significantly in recent weeks because of a weak national economy and events surrounding Sept. 11.

Dairy farmers who used the futures markets prior to September were able to protect their milk checks against these drops. Using the futures markets to protect "part" of your milk check is surprisingly easy once you know the basics. Many dairy farmers have opportunities to forward contract/hedge milk either through their cooperatives or through a broker. The problem is, many don't understand the basics.

The purpose training meetings: 1) help dairy farmers understand their milk checks and the market where they sell their milk, 2) learn to lock in good milk prices, and 3) incorporate risk management into their business plans. This training will be very basic — don't worry if you aren't a math genius! This introduction will also help farmers that want to attend USDA's Dairy Options Pilot

Program later in the year.

All worksheets and materials will be provided. The basis of the training will be a new Penn State manual on dairy risk management. This manual is available online at <http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/freepubs/ua359.html>.

Ken Bailey and Sarah Roth, Penn State, will train. Bailey is an associate professor of dairy markets and policy at Penn State. Roth is an extension associate with the Dairy Alliance Program.

The program will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end before 4 p.m. There will be a registration of \$10 per person to cover the cost of the meal. Training will be limited to 15-20 farmers. Dairy farmers are encouraged to bring their monthly milk checks (for 2001), a calculator, and a pen or pencil.

Meeting Times, Locations

- Bradford/Susquehanna, Bradford County Extension Office, 701 South 4th Street, Towanda, Lehan Power, Gary Henip, (570) 265-2896, Jan. 28.

- Tioga, Aunt Patties Restaurant, Middlebury Center, Craig

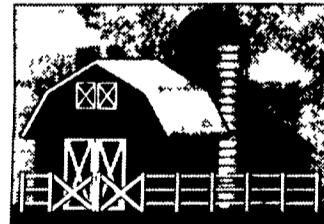
Williams, (570) 724-9120, Jan. 29.

- Centre, Ramada Inn, State College, Terry Maddox, (814) 355-4897, Feb. 19.

- Potter, Potter County Extension Office, Coudersport, Jim Clark, (814) 274-8540 or (814) 887-5613, Feb. 20.

- Erie/Mercer/Crawford, Bainbridge Tech Center, Meadville, George Wilcox, Dave Dowler, Feb. 21.

- Southeast Pennsylvania Country Fare Restaurant, Myerstown, Galen Kopp, (717) 270-4391, Feb. 27.



Beef Industry Brand Mark Approved For New Products

DENVER, Colo. — Eight new convenient beef products have been recognized with the beef industry's checkoff-funded Mark of Quality. The Mark of Quality signifies that these products deliver what consumers expect from beef: taste, quality and satisfaction.

The Mark of Quality is an integral part of the beef industry's Brand-Like Initiative, which is managed for the Cattlemen's Beef Board (CBB) by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA). It is designed to highlight the industry's focus on consumer needs and wants. Fifty-seven convenient retail beef products have been approved to use the Mark of Quality since the effort began in 1997.

"Manufacturers who want to display the beef Mark of Quality on their products face rigorous qualifications," said Texas beef producer James Herring, chairman of the joint industry Brand-Like Commission.

"The commission sets out rigid requirements for product packag-

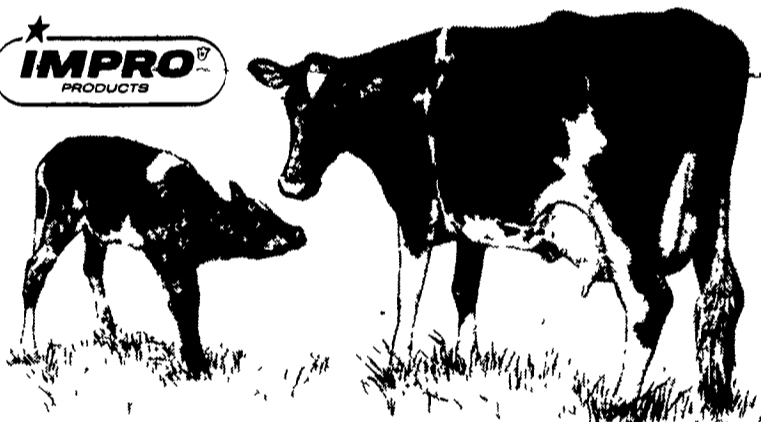
ing and presentation, including nutritional values listed on the label, instructions for cooking preparation and other guidelines," Herring said. "Then the product has to go through NCBA's Culinary Center in Chicago, as well as a final test by volunteers from the cattle industry who make up the Brand-Like Commission."

Approved products are licensed to use the Mark of Quality symbol for one year on packaging and promotional materials. Products must be resubmitted for testing if any element in product formulation or packaging changes during the license period.

Herring said the Mark of Quality helps tell consumers that a beef product has been extensively analyzed to ensure its quality. The nine-member Brand-Like Commission, consisting of U.S. beef producers and industry leaders, meets quarterly to review branded beef products for potential use of the Mark of Quality.

Greenhouse management and care will be the focus of *Grower & Marketer*, scheduled in the January 26 issue of *Lancaster Farming*. But this Mid-Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Convention preview issue, with maps and schedules, also is scheduled to include a feature on mum growing and other items of interest to the eastern vegetable, fruit, nursery, and direct marketing industries.

IMPRO
PRODUCTS



Give Your Calves a Helping Hand...

Use IMPRO, the all natural product designed to boost your cows immune system!
No milk with-holding required

Dairy Farmers!

You are invited to attend one of the following IMPRO meetings.

✿ Tuesday Jan 22, 2002 9:30 AM
Yoders Restarant
14 S. Tower Rd. New Holland, PA

✿ Wednesday Jan 23, 2002 9:30 AM
Carriage Corner Restaurant
Rt. 45
Mifflinburg, PA

✿ Thursday Jan 24, 2002 9:30 AM
Bart Township Fire Hall
Georgetown, Pa. Rte. 896 & Furnace Rd.

Speaker:

Dr. Richard Holliday DVM
Impro Products Inc.

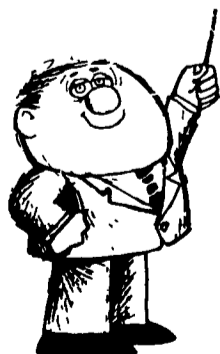
Lunch will be served at 12:00 Noon.

Reservations required!

Call Before Jan. 18, 2002

AARON GROFF & SON
103 Clearview Drive
Ephrata, PA. 17522
(800) 468-4909

Ray K. Espenshade
Lewisburg, PA
(570) 524-7566



A lesson well learned...

Lancaster Farming's classified ads get results!

ATTENTION DAIRYMEN

If you would prefer to be with an independent dairy, Clover Farms is looking for producers.

Clover Farms is a family owned independent dairy with:

- Competitive rates
- Quality bonuses
- Volume bonuses
- No membership fees
- No slop charge

Contact:

Harold Whitcraft: 610-921-9111

or Russell Pelgert: 610-756-3371