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## Farmer/Congressman Bartlett To Speak At FCFO Luncheon

WESTMINSTER, Md. — Roscoe G. Bartlett, Jr., U.S. Congressman, Maryland 6th District, will be the featured speaker at the 15th annual luncheon of the Fellowship of Christian Farmers Outreach (FCFO) scheduled for March 2 at Wilhelm Ltd., Route 140, Westminster.

Bartlett owns a 145-acre farm in Frederic, Md., where he now actively raises sheep and goats. He has had a successful career as a professor, research scientist and inventor, and a small business owner as well as a farmer. He and his wife Ellen have 10 children and 12 grandchildren.

Serving his fifth term in Congress, Bartlett is chairman of the energy subcommittee of the Science Committee; chairman of the Armed Services Committee

on Moral Welfare and Recreation; and vice chairman of the Small Business Committee.

Melissa Aldelmann, Eldersburg, Md., teacher at the Mt. Airy Middle School, will provide special music for the buffet luncheon.

Cost of the luncheon is \$9.00 per person. Tickets may be obtained by calling any of the following FCFO officers: Wilson Lippy, president, (410) 374-2975; Dave Sparks, past president, (410) 239-8480; Roland Mann, treasurer, (410) 857-5448; John Mike Myers, vice president, (410) 775-7527; Gordon Flickinger, secretary, (410) 775-7394; or Vernon Bolte, chaplain, (410) 429-8960. Mailing address is Fellowship of Christian Farmers, P. O. Box 136, Hampstead, Md. 21074.



Committee members of the Penn State Agriculture Council gather Thursday at the Nittany Lion Inn, University Park, to discuss partnering between businesses and academia and the need for more high school students to become acquainted with agriculture-related career opportunities. Seated from left are Marc Lewis, Walt Peechetka, Mary Wirth, and Chuck Cruickshank. Standing from left are Don Seipt, Mel Eckhaus, Jerred Golden, Rob Good, Dean Girton, Jack Watson, and Allen Fidler.

## USDA Secretary Calls On Japan To Lift Ban On U. S. Poultry

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman has called on Japan to lift a 90-day ban on U. S. poultry and poultry products.

The ban was imposed due to the confirmation of a low-pathogenic avian influenza virus in a small number of chickens in Pennsylvania.

"According to Office of International Epizootics (OIE) standards, low pathogenic avian influenza is not a reportable disease," Veneman said in a letter, Jan. 18, to Japan Agriculture Minister Tsutomu Takebe.

"Given that OIE standards do not support a quarantine meas-

ure under these circumstances, we see no justification for this action," Veneman wrote. "I urge you to immediately remove this unnecessary import restriction."

The virus was identified by the USDA's National Veterinary Services Laboratory as a low-pathogenic form of AIV.

The state of Pennsylvania has taken aggressive actions including: depopulating the chickens to prevent any spread of this virus, inoculating its poultry, and an aggressive monitoring program to continually test birds for potential diseases.

Veneman explained that the

import ban is causing serious economic damage to U.S. poultry and egg producers in many regions of the United States.

The Japanese market is important to the U.S. industry accounting for over \$170 million annually.

"This measure is disturbingly similar to the action taken by your government in November 2001, which was rescinded after we demonstrated a ban was unnecessary," Veneman said. "I am troubled that, having resolved this issue only two months ago, we are now faced with another import crisis for U.S. poultry and poultry prod-

ucts."

Veneman added that the U.S. Department of Agriculture responded fully and immediately last week to Japanese agriculture ministry's request for infor-

mation on the avian influenza outbreak. "We now expect Japan to comply with its international obligations and immediately lift the import ban," she said.

