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Lancaster Farming

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Corn, Soybean Conference Educates, Honors Growers



From left, John Yocum, coordinator of the soybean awards program, joins several of the Pennsylvania Soybean Yield Contest top place winners. They include Eric Moser, Milton, sixth place; Kyle Henninger, Reinigsville, second place; and Scott Shoop, Milton, first place. Photo by Michelle Kunjappu

MICHELLE KUNJAPPU
 Lancaster Farming Staff

GRANTVILLE (Dauphin Co.) — The Pennsylvania Corn and Soybean Conference Tuesday drew more than 125 producers and industry representatives to a one-day event conducted here at the Holiday Inn.

The Pennsylvania Corn Growers Association (PCGA), Pennsylvania Soybean Board, and Penn State Cooperative Extension sponsored the event.

During the day PCGA members voted on nominations for the upcoming year's board of directors. Steve Wenger, James Hershey, Jim Hoover, and Russell McLucas were elected to fill the "producer" slots; John Hart, Mifflintown, filled the "industry" position; and John Berry, regional ag marketing educator for Penn State Extension, will serve in the "education" position on the board.

In other association developments, PCGA has a newly-developed Website and e-mail address, available at www.pacorngrowers.org.

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Budget Squeezes Agriculture, Food Programs Proposal To Keep Key Ag Programs In Place

DAVE LEFEVER
 Lancaster Farming Staff
 HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — With revenue shortages, homeland security, and education concerns at the forefront, funds for Pennsylvania agriculture programs will be tight in 2002-2003.

That was message conveyed by Gov. Mark Schweiker's \$20.9 billion state budget proposal this week.

Key ag programs will remain in place, however, according to Secretary of Agriculture Sam Hayes Jr. The \$76 million Farm Show

Complex expansion, \$6 million construction of a new livestock evaluation center, and expansion of the state's animal diagnostic laboratory are "scheduled to continue without cessation," Hayes said in a statement Tuesday.

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Pennsylvania Young Farmer Conference award winners. From left, Tim Brown, South-central Region vice president; Brandee, Kaylee, and Bill Vanarsdale, outstanding young farmers under 30; and Tina and Ed Wilkinson, outstanding community service.

Photo by Dave Lefever

Southcentral Young Farmers Shine At Conference

DAVE LEFEVER
 Lancaster Farming Staff
 LEBANON (Lebanon Co.) — It was a big week for the south-central region of the Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association.

At the annual convention here Tuesday and Wednesday, two Adams County couples were awarded for their outstanding commitment to agriculture and their community. Two individuals and a group from the Ship-

pensburg area were also recognized.

From the eastern region, Dick and Carol Kreider, of the Cedar Crest Young Farmers Chapter, represented the convention's host county of Lebanon by winning the outstanding young farmer over 30 award.

The Kreiders grow crops, feed out about 150 head of beef, and run a custom corn planting business. Their high corn yields have

been recognized through the years by the Pennsylvania Corn Growers Association.

Dick has been a member of the Cedar Crest Young Farmers for more than 35 years and has served as president. He has also chaired the Lebanon Farm Expo board of directors and served for many years on the Lebanon Farm-City committee.

The outstanding young

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Quality Assurance Focus Of Keystone Pork Expo

MILLIE BUNTING
 Market Staff

LEBANON (Lebanon Co.) — Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) — that's the main focus of today's pork production. That subject was tops on the agenda at this year's Keystone Pork Expo Tuesday here at the Lebanon Valley Expo Center.

Attendance this year was estimated at 250, which included members of the Pennsylvania Young Farmers Association, which the Cedar Crest chapter was hosting nearby. They found plenty to see and hear at one of the largest expo trade shows featuring 44 exhibitors plus the "Pork. The Other White Meat Racing" stock car and trailer.

Ken Kephart, Penn State professor of animal science, opened the program with Bob Mikesell, extension swine specialist, who led the discussion on Pork Quality Assurance. Mikesell said that 42 producers gained certification or recertification in PQA.

New PQA program booklets

compiled by the National Pork Board were distributed. The booklets contain all the necessary forms and information involved in the program in which certification is required by most packers who slaughter hogs.

A separate PQA booklet has been prepared for youth to make them aware of the program and the importance of PQA. It was subject of the winning speech in the junior division of the speaking contest.

Following the PQA certification session, Dr. Roy Schultz, an Iowan veterinarian, provided extensive information on his experiences with sow mortality in more than 40 years of practice. He told about the study on 85,000 sows tested on various farms in Missouri. Clostridium and lameness in sows were discussed as the main reasons for sow mortality.

Meanwhile, across the road at the Lebanon County Extension Center, Linda Spahr from the York County extension was su-

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Four teams with four members each competed in the Keystone Pork Bowl Tuesday at the Lebanon Valley Expo Center. The first place, Potter County 4-H team, standing, from left, Annette Miles, coach; Larkin Hayman; Josh Risser; and Paul Risser. Kneeling, from left, Betsy Risser and Holly Hyde.