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# Maryland Holstein Association Celebrates Banner Year

DAVE LEFEVER

**Lancaster Farming Staff**  
WESTMINSTER, Md. — Maryland Holstein Association members gathered here last weekend to commemorate a history-making year and look toward the future.

A number of youth and adult Holstein enthusiasts were recognized for their outstanding contributions toward the advancement of the Holstein breed.

Five youths received academic scholarships for their achievements in the dairy field.

Brett Haines, a dairy science major at Delaware Valley College, was named Maryland Outstanding Holstein Scholar and awarded \$2,000.

The son of Michael and Anita Haines, Taneytown, Brett is involved in all aspects of the family farm and owns about 25 registered Holsteins. He has been active in 4-H dairy judging and in dairy bowl competition on local, state, and national levels, and has served as president of the Maryland Junior Holstein Association. He aspires to a career in dairy genetics.

Gary Brauning III, Andrea Hood, Josh Sanders, and Barbara Schenning rounded out the

field of scholarship winners, each receiving \$750 toward their education.

Brauning, Haines, and Hood were also named Maryland Holstein Association distinguished junior members for 2002.

For high junior production achievement, Marlee Savage of Montgomery County was recognized for three top cows, including Hobbie Hill Pooh, who produced 39,174 pounds of energy-corrected milk as a 3-year-old. Ryan Savage, also of Montgomery County, owned two cows that topped the list in their age group. Stephanie Kepler, Frederick County, had the high-producing 4-year-old.

Maryland Holsteins made an unprecedented splash in 2001 at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Canada, when Ernest Kueffner and Oseeana Holstein's 4-year-old Tri-Day Ashlyn-ET and 5-year-old Ernest-Anthony SD Tobi-ET were named supreme champion and reserve grand champion, respectively.

"At no other time have the grand champion and reserve grand champion come from the same state," noted Arthur Roderick, outgoing president of the  
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John Hall, left, received the Distinguished Service Member Award at the Maryland Holstein Association banquet. With Hall, from left, trophy donors Helen and Dennis Remsburg, and Lois Remsburg Skeen. Photo by Tanya Miller

## Program Promotes Environmental Stewardship

MICHELLE KUNJAPPU  
**Lancaster Farming Staff**  
MANHEIM (Lancaster Co.)

— On Monday a group of producers and allied industry members gathered for a monthly poultry seminar sponsored by Penn State extension and department of poultry science.

Ken Kephart, professor of animal science at Penn State, was the guest speaker during the meeting. Kephart summarized the Pennsylvania Environmental Agricultural Conservation Certificate of Excellence (PEACCE) program.

The program evolved from a livestock evaluation program and is sponsored by several agricultural and conservation-based organizations.

The goal of the program is to

promote environmental stewardship, provide odor solutions, minimize water impact, improve community relations, decrease liability, and help agriculture move toward self-regulation.

PEACCE, a free program, is comprised of several components, the first of which is an environmental awareness course immediately followed by a test. Approximately 600 participants, mostly pork producers, have been certified so far in the program.

This classroom phase, 1-1½ hours long, is an "attempt, in a relatively short period of time, to get producers to think about environmental stewardship," said Kephart.

The second phase is an on-farm assessment and environ-

mental review. Approximately 125 people in Pennsylvania have been through this phase, said Kephart.

The evaluation is a confidential, voluntary report. Assessors check the farm's ventilation, odor, and manure storage, for example, to address water and air quality issues.

Two trained assessors list the farm's strengths and challenges in a report that is issued to the farmer two weeks after the visit. The report also lists cost-effective recommendations.

Both the first and second phases are available. The third phase is expected to be available in mid-2002.

Thirdly a conservation district checklist must be com-

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## Educator Promotes LEAP To Certify More Ag Teachers

MILLIE BUNTING  
**Market Staff**

PORT ROYAL (Perry Co.) — MeeCee Baker is an agricultural educator at Greenwood High School, but now she has "leaped" to a wider field of influence as an adjunct professor at North Carolina State University.

Knowing that there is a critical shortage of teachers in agriculture across the country,

Baker seeks to interest more men and women in becoming certified in agricultural education.

As a part of the LEAP Program, she is working to do that.

LEAP is the acronym for Licensure in Education for Agricultural Professionals. The program allows an individual with an ag-related bachelor's degree to take courses online to  
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## Pa. Governor Candidates Detail Their Platforms Before Cornucopia

ANDY ANDREWS  
**Editor**

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Three candidates for state governor were invited to share their ideas about proposed administrations Monday before

Cornucopia here at the capitol.

Three candidates were invited — Ed Rendell, former mayor of Philadelphia, democrat; Robert P. Casey Jr., state auditor general, democrat; and Mike Fisher, attorney general, republican.

But only Rendell spoke in person at the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania State Council of Farm Organizations conducted earlier in the day.

Tuesday, May 21 is the state primary. Election Day for gover-

nor is Nov. 5.

Rendell, who has targeted property/school tax reform as a priority, noted how the individual property owner absorbs the burden for institutional costs, compared to 25 years ago. Rendell noted that in 1974-1975, the state paid for about 55 percent of the school costs in 501 districts. Today that number is down to 35 percent, leaving taxpayers with heavier burdens.

"In educational funding, Gov. Schweiker's administration proposed a 1 percent increase in educational funding," Rendell noted. "With inflation just under 3 percent, that's actually a cut in educational funding."

That and other factors have forced "property tax hits" which are unfair to people, he noted.

Rendell's plan: double the cigarette tax (which is still lower compared to other Northeast states) and authorize slot ma-

chines at racetracks.

Adjoining states have slots, Rendell noted, which draw taxpayers and their money away from Pennsylvania.

Rendell, popular with voters in the more "urbanized" counties surrounding Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, touted his "economic incentive" packages to take advantage of the two largest state industries, agriculture and tourism.

Rendell noted he would help fund and increase those industries and revitalize those strengths. "That I can guarantee you," he said.

Rendell, however, admitted he knew little about the agri-industry infrastructure but said he would be willing to "learn, listen, and adapt," much as he did in revitalized business in downtown Philadelphia.

Rendell noted on his Website (www.rendellforgovernor.com)

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Ed Rendell



Mike Fisher



Bob Casey