

Farm Credit Reviews Prosperous Returns

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NEW HOLLAND (Lancaster Co.) — MidAtlantic Farm Credit celebrated a successful year by hosting eight sectional stockholder banquet meetings April 1-10.

According to Ralph Robertson, Farm Credit director, the member-based focus of decision-making policies resulted in track-record achievements and successful returns on stock of more than 20 percent.

Farm Credit's diversified portfolio is almost equally divided among what is called the "top five" — grain, poultry, dairy, landlords, and livestock. This diversification lowers risk-taking.

Twenty months ago, Farm Credit began ongoing consolidation. Reducing the number of offices trimmed operating costs, saved taxes, and strengthened the organization. Planned merging changes continue to be put into action, Robertson said. Within the next year, the 31-member board will be reduced to 23.

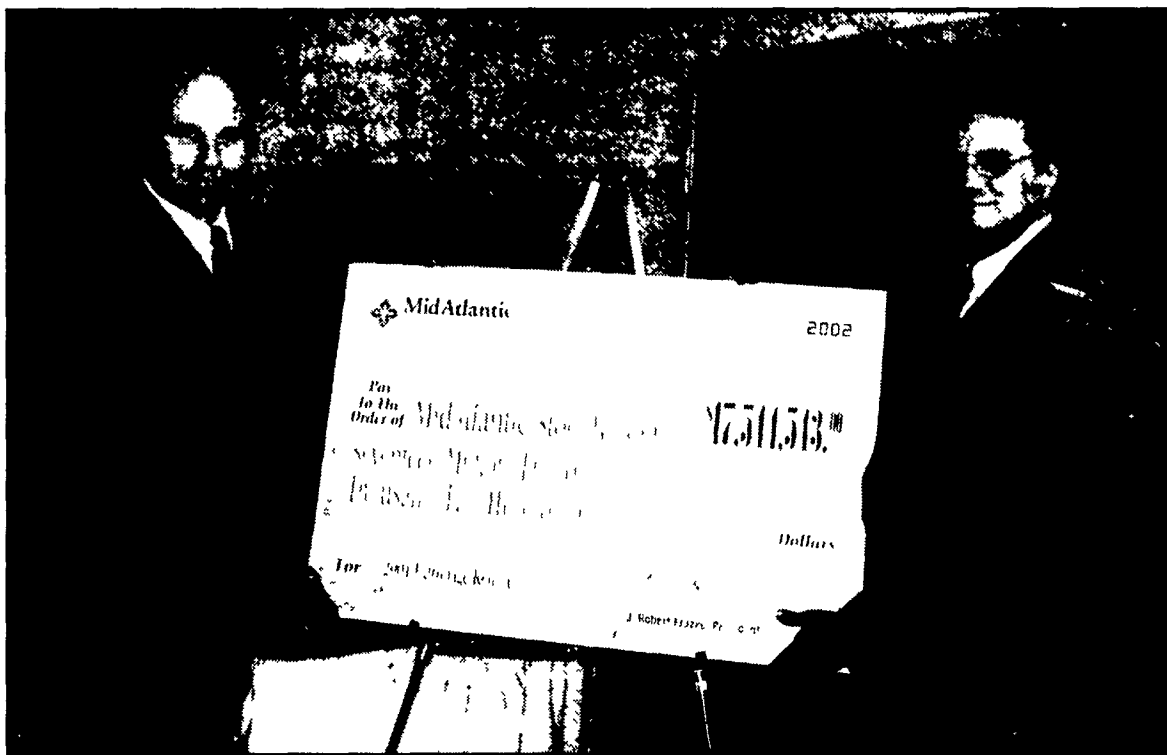
Bob Frazee, CEO, said that members cooperation continue to make stockholders' vision a reality.

This past year's financial success was partly due to the dramatic decline in interest rates, the lowest in recent memory. This enabled improved cash flow and lowered borrowing costs for members.

The lower interest rates spurred refinancing opportunities.

Last year, 300 new members joined MidAtlantic.

Internal duties include reorganization to equip Farm Credit to serve the needs of large and small operations.



An oversized check for \$17,544,543 held by Ralph Robertson, director, right, and Bob Frazee, CEO, demonstrates the amount returned to stockholders of MidAtlantic Farm Credit.

Profits also increased in part because of a finalized IRS settlement, which returned monies from an escrow account.

"September 11 shaped 2001," Frazee said. The events showed that anything can happen, but also rekindled a renewal among the nation to concentrate on what is important in life, Frazee said. Farmers, he said, are accustomed to dealing with crisis as a result of changeable weather, economy, and government policies.

The company slogan for the year, "The Time Is Right," signified that the time was right for consolidation and for moving to a holding company to benefit from deferred taxes.

"We strive to be the premier cooperative lender. I promise we are working for you," Robertson told the stockholders.

Elections were held at each of the eight regional meetings, which included Dover, Del., Princess Anne, Md., Denton, Md., Allentown; New Holland; Level, Md.; Westminster, Md.; and Hagerstown, Md.

After the votes from all regional meetings were tallied, the following members were elected to the board of directors: Gary Grossnickle, Walkersville, Md.; Merle Ramsburg, Thurmond, Md.; Douglas Scott, Hurlock, Md.; Dale Ockels, Milton, Del.; James Garber, Mount Joy; Dale R. Hershey, Manheim; Wilmer

Hostetter, Oxford; Mervin Sauder, Lititz; Kenneth Stutzman, Kutztown; Rodger Wagner, Oley; George Bundick, Bloxom, Va.; M. Wayne Lambertson, Pocomo City, Md.; Fred Moore Jr., Eden, Md.; Jesse Burall Sr., Monrovia, Md.; Steven Wilson, Parkton, Md.; Raymond Harrison III, Easton, Md.; William Knight Jr., Church Hill, Md.; Leroy Allen Messick Jr., Seaford, Del.; Benjamin Tull, Seaford, Del.; Stephen Burkholder, Alburdis; Dean Groff, Kinzers; Susan Arnold, Salisbury, Md.; and Lewis Q. Riley, Marva.

Featured speaker was Bryan Townsend, Talladega, Ala. The motivational humorist spoke of making good things happen.

Allied Milk Producers Conduct Annual Banquet

SANDRA LEPLEY
Somerset Co. Correspondent

JOHNSTOWN (Somerset Co.) — The 52nd annual meeting of Allied Milk Producers' Cooperative Inc. was conducted April 2 at the

Masonic Temple in Johnstown with more than 100 members and families.

Allied Milk Producers has been in existence since 1950 for the purpose of promoting and adver-

tising the dairy industry to include the consumption of dairy products, according to Dorothy Naugle, dairy marketing specialist who has been with the cooperative for the past 16 years.

Allied Producers include 200 dairy producers from nine counties, including Armstrong, Bedford, Blair, Cambria, Clearfield, Indiana, Jefferson, Somerset, and Westmoreland. These business owners ship their milk to 13 different markets, some of which include Gallikers, Land O'Lakes, and Schneiders Dairy.

According to Naugle, the annual banquet and meeting allows the farmers to get together and enjoy one another's conversations as well as contribute suggestions or complaints about the organization.

In addition, it allows them to hear a speaker who often talks about current issues in the dairy business, said Naugle.

This year, Dr. Paul Knepley from the Bureau of Animal Health at the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, spoke to the crowd concerning farm bio security.

"Biocontainment provides the best safeguard at keeping the bad guy off your farm," said Dr. Knepley. "It's a reality. You can't have an impenetrable fortress, and it's not cost effective to do that, but there are ways to protect your farm environment."

Knepley first discussed the potential sources of new disease, such as new herd additions, visitors, equipment, and wildlife. He also talked about reportable diseases, such as brucellosis, anthrax, and mad cow disease.

Other speakers that evening included Sara Jennings, Pennsylvania's Alternate State Dairy Princess. Other dairy princesses



The Allied Milk Producers' Cooperative Inc., which includes 200 members from nine counties in Western Pennsylvania, conducted its annual banquet recently in Johnstown in Cambria County. Here, some members get together before the banquet to discuss the dairy industry. They are Dr. Paul Knepley, guest speaker from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture; Fred Shankle, vice president, Bedford County; Lowell Friedline, organization secretary from Boswell in Somerset County; and Dave Myers, president from Cambria County. Photo by Sandra Lepley

Purple Deadnettle Carpets Fields

DAVE LEFEVER
Lancaster Farming Staff

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — If you've been curious about a short plant with purplish leaves and flowers making a strong showing in some fields and roadsides this spring, Penn State extension agent Paul Craig offered some information this week.

Purple deadnettle is its name, and serious competition is *not* its game.

Although it forms a dense carpet of striking purple in some fields, it will not pose much of a threat to crops grown in this area, Craig said.

Purple deadnettle (*Lamium purpureum*) is a winter annual often confused with henbit (*Lamium amplexicaule*). Both weeds have square stems and belong to the mint family. The leaves of purple deadnettle are triangular in shape and less deeply lobed than henbit. The upper leaves of deadnettle are red to purple in color.

The flowers of purple deadnettle are light purple in color and are arranged in whorls in the axis of the upper leaves.

~~Purple deadnettle~~ spreads by seeds and is found throughout the U.S. and Canada. It germinates in the fall or spring. Like henbit, it does best in thin, turf or open ground. It is usually found in moist fertile soils, growing best in the cooler weather of late fall and early spring.

Proper cultural and fertility practices will reduce competition from purple deadnettle.

Website information from WeedAlert.com was used in this report.

in attendance were Stephanie Biesinger, Armstrong County; Emily Kirsch, Blair County; Michele Freyer, Clearfield County; Gretchen King, Indiana County; and Jennifer Stahl, Somerset County.

Amy Sylvester, newscaster from Channel 10 News in Altoona, served as MC.

The board of directors includes Dave W. Myers, Cambria County, president; Fred Shankle, vice president, Bedford County; Lowell Friedline, secretary, Somerset County; Janice Itle, treasurer, Cambria County; Richard Kaufman Jr., Somerset County; and James Scott, Indiana County. Naugle serves as dairy marketing specialist.

Naugle explained that even though Allied Producers has been up and running since 1950, the Dairy Tobacco and Adjustment Act of 1983 made it mandatory for dairy farmers to contribute so many cents per hundredweight collected each year for a qualified agent, with five cents going to the National Dairy Board and 10 cents being directed by local producers for advertising.