

(Continued from Page A10)

unemployment rolls beginning July 1, 2002.

This reduction would be the largest decrease in funding for agricultural research and extension in the modern history of the College of Agricultural Sciences, taking us back to staffing levels and program support that were available in the early nineties. Tuition increases have no bearing on these programs, since they are distinct line items in the budget. This, of course, is a recurring problem that is exacerbated this year by the proposed cut. Only the legislature can offset these shortfalls. Consequently, the College has initiated a hiring freeze on most positions and initiated a plan for program reduction until the funding situation clarifies.

For the people of the commonwealth, it is perhaps more impor-

tant to put these proposed reductions in research and extension into a context of impact on programs. There is a very wide range of research and extension programs in the College of Agricultural Sciences, all of which are developed and in place to meet stakeholder needs and demands as determined by county-by-county needs assessment and statewide stakeholder meetings to define issues, create programs, and set priorities. A few of the larger and more visible programs of very high priority to the economic health of the commonwealth are illustrated below.

The dairy industry is a major force in the U.S. economy, ranking approximately sixth at \$20 billion, slightly below telecommunications and slightly ahead of the aerospace industry. It is Pennsylvania's leading agricultural enterprise and grow-

ing in presence and impact. It is also one of the largest in the U.S., ranking behind California and Wisconsin and just moving ahead of New York. The research, teaching and extension programs in the College of Agricultural Sciences represent a "joint venture" with this industry to insure a stable workforce, promote further economic development, and provide cutting edge research and technology transfer. The Dairy Alliance extension program, in place for approximately two years, is a direct outgrowth of this cooperation. The industry is requesting (demanding really) more assistance. The proposed budget will result in significantly reduced assistance to this key multibillion-dollar commonwealth industry.

Pennsylvania is challenged with maintaining the security of its food and fiber sector, both as

a matter of national security and economic vitality for the commonwealth. College research, teaching, and extension programs are hard at work in partnerships with stakeholders on such key problems as plum pox virus, West Nile virus, foot and mouth disease, and, most recently, an outbreak of avian influenza affecting a poultry industry that contributes hundreds of millions of dollars to the economy of commonwealth. In each case, we are asked to do more to fill the research gaps so that we can be more effective at detection, eradication, and ultimately prevention of these challenges to the security of our food and fiber system in Pennsylvania. The drought watch in most of Pennsylvania's counties further magnifies the gravity of these challenges to Pennsylvania's food and fiber sector. This proposed budget will dramatically reduce our ability to respond.

Pennsylvania's hardwood forests are the most valuable in the U.S. and most of the world. Research, teaching, and extension programs conducted in partnership with this very large Pennsylvania industry are designed to insure that the forests are sustained for

generations to come through new research, education, and extension activities. Current challenges such as drought, pest management issues including deer overbrowsing, watershed management, and economic challenges are pressing the industry to ask us to do more, yet this budget will reduce our ability to support this important industry and communities facing these challenges.

We are so proud of our 4-H program in the U.S. as it celebrates its centennial anniversary this year. Pennsylvania's 4-H programs reach more than 123,000 youth, roughly half from farm, rural and small communities and half from urban areas and larger cities. It is one of the largest in the U.S., yet our communities know so well that this program should be growing to reach more youth not shrinking to reach fewer youth. The current budget will result in a smaller program in its centennial year at a time the youth of Pennsylva-

nia require greater guidance and support.

The prominent examples above, though not an exhaustive listing, are illustrative of the range of high priority areas, determined by the people of the commonwealth, that are important to the economic vitality of the food and fiber sector of the state. Of the nearly 150 four-year institutions of higher education in Pennsylvania, no other institution provides teaching, research, and extension in any of these areas let alone all of them.

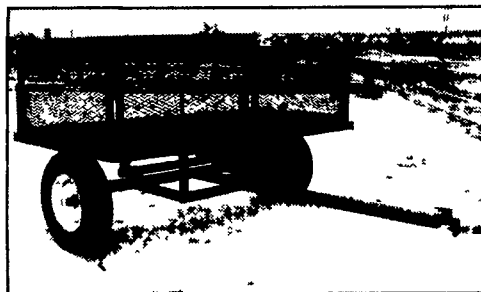
Therefore, if we are to address these priorities as the residents of the commonwealth have asked us to do, only the legislature through its support of the Agricultural Research and Agricultural Extension line items can provide the relatively small amount of citizens' resources to meet these needs.

— Pa. State Council Of Farm Organizations

to put these proposed reductions in research and extension into a context of impact on programs. There is a very wide range of research and extension programs in the College of Agricultural Sciences, all of which are developed and in place to meet stakeholder needs and demands as determined by county-by-county needs assessment and statewide stakeholder meetings to define issues, create programs, and set priorities. A few of the larger and more visible programs of very high priority to the economic health of the commonwealth are illustrated below.

The dairy industry is a major force in the U.S. economy, ranking approximately sixth at \$20 billion, slightly below telecommunications and slightly ahead of the aerospace industry. It is Pennsylvania's leading agricultural enterprise and grow-

## NEW PRODUCT

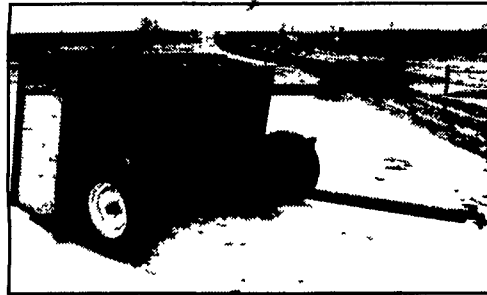


### All Purpose Dump Cart

- 12 Volt Hydraulic System
- 4'x8' Inside, 26" High

#### - Haul -

- \* Large Square Bales
- \* Round Bales
- \* Mulch
- \* Dirt & Stones
- \* Manure
- \* Most Anything



## MFD GAP HILL FARM WAGONS

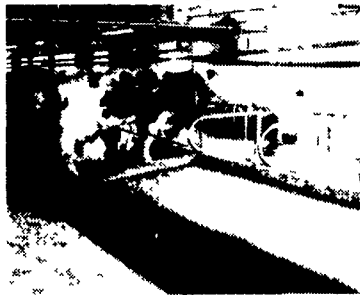
BY: 5549 Lincoln Hwy. - Gap, PA 17527 Call Bet. 8:30 & 9:00 A.M. 717-442-9489

## For Extreme Cow Comfort Ulti-Mat™ AllRubber Cow Mattress Installation

Continuous Cow Comfort - THE ONLY All Rubber Mattress that recovers to original shape after cow movement.



### Absolutely The Ultimate in Cow Comfort



- Designed by farmers
- Inert - does not promote fungus or bacterial growth
- 3" nominal thickness
- Water and acid resistant polyurethane binder
- Comfort doesn't change after 5 years in barn and running
- Mattress pads are guaranteed provided the top cover doesn't have holes in it with the original installation

★ Call For References ★  
Installation & Financing Available

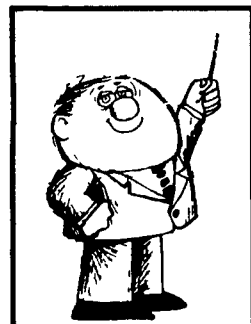
Zartman Farms now has  
Water Resistant & Waterproof  
Mattress Covers

SPECIAL THANKS To Luzerne Farms Ed Quigley Family, Spruce Creek, PA installed Ulti-Mat™ in their 280-Cow Free Stall Barn

## ZARTMAN FARMS

820 Hilltop Rd., Ephrata, PA 17522 717-733-1050  
E-mail: zartmanfarms@dejazzd.com

New Ulti-Mat® Dealers:  
Melvin Martin - Martinsburg, PA • 814-793-4199  
Creekside Builders - Weyers Cave, VA • 540-234-0172



A lesson well learned...

Lancaster Farming's classified ads get results!

**NOTICE**  
**EXTENDED PARTS DEPARTMENT**  
**STORE HOURS**  
**EFFECTIVE MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2002**  
To Better Serve You During The Busy Planting Season  
**APRIL - MAY - JUNE**  
**Mon., Tues., Thurs. & Fri. 7am-8pm**  
**Wed. 7am-6pm; Sat. 7am-3pm**

**BINKLEY-HURST**  
**BROS. INC.**  
Fax 717-626-0996

133 Rothville Station Rd.  
P.O. Box 0395  
Lititz, PA 17543-0395  
(717) 626-4705  
1-800-414-4705



*You've done a good job.*  
*You want to pay your*  
*fixed rate ag loan early.*  
*Can you pay it off*  
*without a penalty?*



**ENB**  
**Says**  
**Yes!**

Bob Zook, Vice President  
Ag Lending 717-721-5220  
or 1-877-773-6605

If your banker has a different answer, and if your fixed rate loan is due for an interest rate review, call me.

Ask me some questions.

You'll like the answers.



Ephrata National Bank

You'll feel the difference.

www.ephranationalbank.com

Member FDIC