

New Farmers, **New Generation**

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Pennsylvania Farm Link

DO YOU HAVE THE CHARACTER TRAITS FOR A SUCCESSFUL FARM CAREER?

Know yourself. Getting into farming requires certain charac-

Not everyone is suited to be a farmer. Take some time to evaluate if you possess the following traits or personality qualities that have been correlated with the ability to succeed in an entrepreneurial business endeavor.

• Passion. I really enjoy talking and learning about farming. I am always looking for better ways to farm, and time passes quickly when I am involved in "doing" it.

 Persistence. I am willing to work 12- to 16-hour days, six days a week and on holidays to make my farm work. I stick with a job until it's done.

Good health/energy. I have the physical and emotional stamina needed to handle the workload and strain that comes with farming.

• Creativity/innovation. I am receptive to changes and enjoy doing things differently. I like to approach problems differently.

• Independence/self-reliant. I like making my own decisions and getting things done on time. I am able to work on my own, but know when to seek help and am not too proud to seek it. I am self-disciplined and a self-starter.

• Intuition. My "gut' level decisions are usually good ones and

I have no problem making them. I pay attention to what is going on and see patterns and trends beyond the obvious.

• Self-confidence. I have the courage and self-confidence to face risk, but the responsibility to minimize risky business decisions because I know how to provide leadership, keep my promises, and establish trust.

• Market awareness. I am open to new products and new ways of farming, always looking for ways to reinvent my business and myself. I pay attention to local, regional, and national farm events to keep in touch with changing ways of doing business.

 Lack of need for status. I am willing to lower my standard of living until my farm is established. I am also willing to forego a vacation, a new piece of equipment, or a new truck so that I

can accomplish my goals in farm-

• Ability to accept challenges. I like a challenge and working hard on my project until I

juggle many tasks and obligations at once while keeping site of the end goal. I can develop and organize a plan of action and follow through until it is completed.

"Hard work" ethic. I am willing to put in the time and effort to make the farm succeed. My personal integrity is more important than my financial suc-

If you could answer yes to most of these qualities, you have the traits of an entrepreneur. Only someone with well-developed entrepreneurial traits will answer yes to all of them.

If not, don't give up — these traits can be learned. Recognizing the personal qualities you need to be successful is the first step in this learning process. I hope that looking at your responses will help to stimulate your thoughts on how to enhance your entrepreneurial abilities and make your farm succeed.

For more information on developing a farm business, contact Pennsylvania Farm Link at (717) 664-7077 or e-mail us at pafarmlink@redrose.net. Next time: Developing a personal and business mission for your farm.

succeed. I can **USDA Announces National Pork Board Appointments**

DES MOINES, Iowa — The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced five appointments to the 15-member National Pork Board.

These pork producers will serve three-year terms. The five appointees were nominated by the National Pork Act Delegate Body at the National Pork Industry Forum in Denver, Colo., on March 1 and recommended to Secretary of Agriculture

"The five appointments are highly qualified for the position," said John Kellogg, a pork producer and former National Pork Board president from Yorksville, Ill. "They all bring unique experiences and knowledge that will benefit the Pork Check-

The National Pork Board members appointed to serve from 2002 to 2005 are:

Hugh G. Dorminy, Russellville, Ark; Lynn E. Harrison, Elk Mound, Wis.; Michael L. Bayes, Orient, Ohio; Deborah M. Johnson, Clinton, N.C.;and Mark J. Bartusek, New Prague, Minn.

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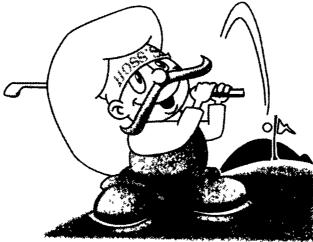
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