

## Despite Storms, Drought Persists In Southeastern Pa.

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) — Most of the slow-moving, drenching rainstorms that clogged through Pennsylvania during the last two months somehow missed the southeastern corner of the state where a drought persists, according to an expert in Penn State's College of Agricul-

tural Sciences.

Fourteen southeastern and southcentral counties are still under a stat-declared drought emergency, according to Bryan Swistock, water resources extension specialist. They include Bedford, Fulton, Franklin, Cumberland, Adams, York, Lancaster, Chester, Delaware, Berks, Lacka-

wanna, Schuylkill, Lehigh, and Northampton.

Three eastern counties face a drought warning — Bucks, Montgomery, and Philadelphia — and seven others are listed under a drought watch: Perry, Dauphin, Luzerne, Carbon, Monroe, Pike and Wayne.



**Fair Happenings**

### New Exhibit Halls Scheduled For Washington County Fair

A groundbreaking ceremony was conducted April 18 for new exhibit halls at the Washington County Fair.

The \$1,379 million project is scheduled to be complete by Aug. 1, several weeks before the start of the fair.

Two new exhibit halls will contain food preparation areas used by food vendors. A dome-shaped cover, similar to that on the Sit-

ver Dome show tent, will cover the area between the two buildings.

One of the buildings is 140 by 148 feet, and the second building is smaller.

Ron Miller of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Fair Program said many other fairs also are making improvements.

"Many buildings at fairgrounds across Pennsylvania were built in the late 1800s or early 1900s," Miller said.

"Fairs can't be operated in the

same way they were 20 years ago," Miller said. "Fair boards have to be more progressive and look at year-round uses for the fairgrounds."

"Washington County Fair Board had the foresight in planning the new buildings," said Gerri Moore, president of the Pennsylvania State Association of County Fairs.

"This is on the cutting edge," she said. "Other fair boards will be looking at what they've done."

## NCBA Conducts Leadership Conference

WASHINGTON, D.C. — John Allen, Sarver, Butler County, was one of 42 beef producers who recently completed a seven-day nationwide tour as part of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Young Cattlemen's Conference (YCC). The 22-year-old program is designed to develop leadership qualities in young beef industry leaders, who were nominated by their respective state cattlemen's associations.

The May 30-June 7 YCC tour started in Denver, Colo., with an introduction to NCBA and a presentation on the beef industry's strategic plan and direction. The group then participated in a ContiBeef case study, discussing current industry issues. A CattleFax outlook presentation highlighted current cattle trends.

Participants visited a King Soopers (Kroger) grocery store, viewing the meat case and also toured Warren Analytical Lab, a state-of-the-art laboratory providing analytical services for the food and agricultural industries. Finally, they stopped by ConAgra Beef Company headquarters for a presentation and barbecue with top management.

The group traveled across the country to see more aspects of the beef industry. In Kansas, the group visited Grant County Feeders, a 112,000-head capacity feedyard. In Nebraska, the group toured a tannery and packing plant. The group then traveled to Chicago where they learned about futures trading and toured the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. They also met with the Bruss Company, a meat purveyor.

The last stop of the YCC tour was Washington, D.C. The participants first received an issues

briefing from the NCBA-Washington staff that detailed top policy issues affecting cattlemen in the nation's capitol. Then the group headed to Capitol Hill, where they had a unique opportunity to meet with various members of Congress and discuss policy issues most important to them.

The Congressional Beef Caucus Picnic on Capitol Hill, sponsored by NCBA, brought hundreds of people together, including key members of Congress, their staff, and major industry representatives. The group had informative meetings with top government officials, including Karl Rove, senior adviser to the President and USDA Secretary Ann Veneman. Finally, they toured and barbecued at White Stone Farms, a large Angus operation in Aldie, Va.

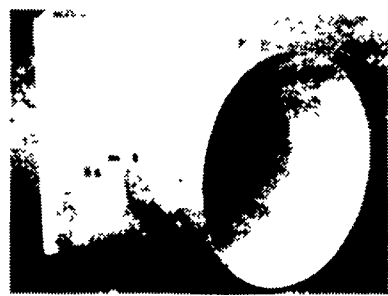
The conference is co-sponsored by state and breed affiliates, IBP (part of the Tyson Foods Family), ContiBeef and NCBA.



John Allen

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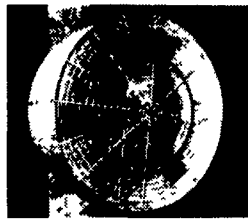
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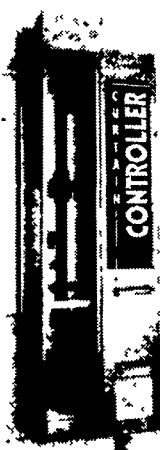
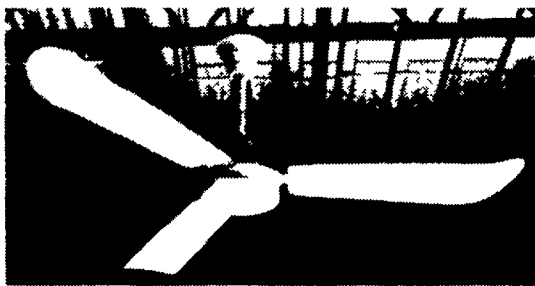


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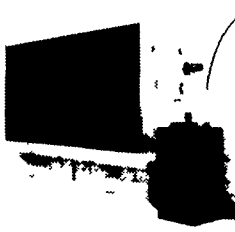
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